

for years. I thank the members of the Honor the Gift coalition for their dedication to helping kidney transplant recipients stay healthy and well, and I urge my colleagues to support these commonsense bills to improve the Medicare program for seniors and kidney patients.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, while proxy voting for other members on the floor, I failed to cast my own vote on H.R. 8354—Servicemembers and Veterans Initiative Act of 2020. Had I voted, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 239.

HONORING MAURICE R. "HANK" GREENBERG

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, it is incumbent upon us to acknowledge patriots who have fought to secure and strengthen the cherished liberties that every American citizen holds dear. Maurice R. "Hank" Greenberg is one of those patriots who has devoted his life to embracing and advancing the American spirit.

Hank's father died when Hank was six years old. The family moved to upstate New York to a dairy farm where a very long and back breaking day's work was a common reality. Like so many others, he and his family were barely scraping by. Soon, America was at war.

At 17, Hank left high school, enlisted in the Army and was attached to the 5th Ranger Battalion which stormed the beaches of Normandy. Later, Hank was a member of the forces that liberated the concentration camp at Dachau. Hank remained in the U.S. Army Reserves as a first Lieutenant. When the Korean War broke out, Hank returned to service, rising to the rank of Captain. For his extraordinary military service and sacrifice in the European Theater and Korea, Hank was awarded the Bronze Star and the Award for Meritorious Unit Commendation. He was also bestowed with the prestigious *Commandeur of the French Ordre National de la Legion d'Honneur*.

Between his years of military service, Hank finished high school, college and then law school. He credits the G.I. Bill with the opportunities he has had in his life. "It helped me build AIG (American International Group)" he said, which, under his leadership, became the largest insurance company in the world. Hank is currently chairman and Chief Executive Officer of C.V. Starr, a diversified financial services firm.

Hank's service in our Armed Forces warrants our gratitude. His years as an American and international corporate leader, a visionary of globalization, an innovator, and philanthropist who has changed lives for the better in the United States and around the world are equally stellar and illustrious. And, at the age of 95, Hank is as involved as ever.

Hank is the Honorary Vice Chairman of the Council on Foreign Relations and Vice Chairman of The National Committee on United States-China Relations. He is the past Chairman and Director of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. Personally, and as Chairman of the Starr Foundation, one of the largest private foundations in the United States, Hank oversees disbursement of major financial support to institutions worldwide. I have personally seen the transformational change he has made in the lives of thousands of older adults at the Hebrew Home at Riverdale, a nationally renowned center for the aging, which I have had the great honor to represent for my 32-year term. In acknowledgment of Hank's longstanding support, the Hebrew Home has named its campus the Maurice R. and Corinne P. Greenberg Campus.

Let us acknowledge the extraordinary accomplishments of a great American and veteran, a champion of freedom, a patriot, a man who has been able to unite countries and human beings for the betterment of our greater good.

IN HONOR OF KARYL MATSUMOTO

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Karyl Matsumoto as she completes her remarkable service on the South San Francisco city council. She served a record 23 years, including four terms as Mayor. When you do the math, Karyl has been on the council for nearly $\frac{2}{3}$ of her years as a resident of South San Francisco. One has to ask if she ever had a moment to simply take a leisurely walk along the bayfront.

South San Francisco has changed remarkably since Karyl joined the council. Its population grew by 10,000 to a total of 68,000. In the Oyster Point area, biotechnology powerhouse Genentech and sister companies are rapidly replacing traditional uses such as warehouses, food factories, airline-related businesses and transportation enterprises. The Caltrain station is moving and apartments are being constructed by the hundreds within walking distance of this location and the city's BART station. The city has also become more diverse, with approximately $\frac{1}{3}$ of its residents being of either Asian or Latino descent.

Karyl has contributed to many of these changes. For example, she has served for over a decade on boards of the county's transportation authority and Samtrans, the provider of bus services and management of the local train service. In South San Francisco, she strongly advocated for moving the train station. Her years as a Samtrans director are among her proudest achievements. She sought to build the bus service into one that takes care of San Mateo County's wage earners, while also adapting the system to offer new express service, such as the pre-COVID line from Foster City to San Francisco.

It costs a lot to live in San Mateo County. Average rent in South San Francisco is \$3,000 per month. Karyl Matsumoto realized that it was impossible for many to survive if they had to earn \$120,000 per year or more just to pay rent and avoid debt. She was the

first on her council to propose an increase of the minimum wage to \$15 per hour starting January 1, 2021, and her colleagues adopted that proposal. She also championed affordable housing and balancing jobs with housing in order to protect lower-income residents.

During the course of her multi-decade-long public service career, Karyl Matsumoto has served on over 30 community groups and boards of nonprofits. Examples include the Peninsula Family YMCA, the San Mateo County Japanese American Citizens League, the Skyline College President's Council Advisory Board, and the United Way Community Impact Committee. She also founded the city's youth commission.

She worked for our esteemed colleague Congresswoman ANNA ESHOO when Congresswoman ESHOO served on the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, and for former State Senator Quentin Kopp. She co-founded the South San Francisco Community Outreach Program to bring together residents, businesses and advocacy groups on behalf of seniors, residents with special needs and other vulnerable residents.

As a councilwoman, Karyl Matsumoto was fiscally conservative and supported building the city's tax base to provide funds for such largescale community efforts as the new 911 and police operations center. She also serves as one of two liaisons with the school district and on the Caltrain Modernization committee, keeping an eye on the progress of a \$2 billion electrification project for our regional train system.

As she makes her case to colleagues, Karyl is known for saying, "Ergo," and if she forgets someone's name while making a point you might hear her say "Whosewhatis" as a placeholder. These endearing mannerisms signal that a significant point is about to be made because Karyl doesn't let anything—even a momentary mind freeze—get in the way of the public's interest.

Madam Speaker, I can say without fear of contradiction that Karyl Matsumoto has made a tremendous difference in South San Francisco and throughout the county. We know her as an eager public servant who has a vast knowledge of the history of her city and of public policy. When she leaves, decades of perspective will go with her. All of us in the community thank her for a job well done and hope she can relax and leave the hard work of civic policymaking to others. After decades at the wheel, Karyl is getting off the bus. Her final stop, a stop called "success," is just beyond the bus door.

RECOGNIZING WILSON COUNTY SHERIFF JOE D. TACKITT, JR.

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Sheriff Joe D. Tackitt, Jr. after 28 years of dedication and service to Wilson County, Texas.

Sheriff Tackitt was elected in 1992 and over the course of his career, he worked tirelessly to keep his community safe. Through his hard work and efforts, he helped bring the Criminal Justice Center to Wilson County and improved

communications across the sheriff's office while saving taxpayer money. He also increased the number of full-time deputies on patrol to 25 and secured a nearly \$7 million budget. In addition, he created the Sheriff Santa Program to help families in need during the holidays.

I have worked with my friend Sheriff Tackitt for several years and witnessed first-hand the important work he has done for his community. We must never forget his leadership during the tragedy at Sutherland Springs Church in 2017 and how much he cared for his community as a third-generation native of Wilson County. The dedication that he showed to others should be a constant reminder of how we should be in our daily lives.

For his leadership and service, Sheriff Tackitt has received several awards. In 2018, his office was presented with the EMS Telecommunicator Award by the Texas Department of State Health Services for outstanding achievement. In addition, the Sheriffs' Association of Texas recognized Sheriff Tackitt and his staff in 2019 for the outstanding support they provided for the 141st Annual Training Conference and Expo.

In addition to his hard work as sheriff, he is active in his community as a member of the Sheriff's Association of Texas, the Floresville Lions Club, and the Texas Jail Association. Along with his involvement in the community, he also served as a member of the Texas Air National Guard and is a devoted family man.

As we move forward, let us take the time to appreciate the service of heroes like Sheriff Tackitt and all the individuals who risk their lives each day to keep us safe. However, in the words of President John F. Kennedy, "As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the career and service of Sheriff Tackitt.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL T. McCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

Mr. McCAUL. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea on Roll Call No. 239.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

Mr. DeFAZIO. Madam Speaker, on December 8, 2020, I was unavoidably detained due to traffic congestion and missed the following vote: on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 8354, the Servicemembers and Veterans Initiative Act of 2020. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea.

CONFERENCE REPORT TO ACCOMPANY H.R. 6395 WILLIAM M. (MAC) THORNBERRY NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

Mr. DeFAZIO. Madam Speaker, yesterday I voted in support of the Conference Report to accompany H.R. 6395, the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021. Make no mistake: I have opposed NDAA legislation in previous years, and I still have concerns about a number of provisions included in this year's legislation, but this year's conference legislation also contains numerous policy priorities that I strongly support.

As with the initial House-passed NDAA, this legislation grants our men and women in uniform a well-deserved pay raise of 3 percent. This is the very least we can do for those who continue to make extraordinary sacrifices for our country.

As Chair of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I fought to successfully include vital provisions important to Oregon coastal communities. This includes the Elijah E. Cummings Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2020, legislation to authorize funds for, reinforce, and support the United States Coast Guard. I am also pleased that the conferees retained important provisions to reauthorize U.S. Maritime Administration (MARAD) programs, and for the first time provided MARAD with authority to provide financial assistance to the U.S. Maritime Transportation System in the event of a national emergency or disaster such as the current COVID-19 public health emergency.

Given the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee's jurisdiction over the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), I am proud that this legislation makes a long-overdue correction to ensure that the more than 45,000 FAA employees, as well as VA and other federal civilian employees who were inexcusably left out of last year's NDAA, receive twelve weeks of paid parental leave.

I am also proud that the Conference Report includes long-overdue benefits for veterans exposed to Agent Orange. Specifically, the legislation adds Parkinsonism, bladder cancer, and hypothyroidism to the list of diseases associated with exposure to certain herbicide agents. This will ensure that tens of thousands of veterans with these diseases get the benefits they deserve.

While Congress must do much more to achieve racial justice in this country, I strongly support conferees' retention of language requiring the Department of Defense (DOD) to remove all names, symbols, displays, monuments, and more that honor Confederate individuals on DOD property. This demonstrates a strong bipartisan rebuke of President Trump's inexplicable threat to veto the NDAA if this long-overdue provision is included. I also support the bill's addition of needed diversity requirements for DOD military and civilian personnel, as well as provisions to curtail transfer of various military-grade equipment to law enforcement agencies. In addition, I am a strong supporter of this bill's requirement that federal

law enforcement officers, active duty military, and National Guard members deployed in response to public protests visibly display their name and agency on their uniform. This requirement is especially crucial given Trump's appalling use of unidentifiable federal agents and unmarked vehicles to detain peaceful protesters in Portland, Oregon.

I am pleased the conference legislation refuses to authorize funding for President Trump's dangerous and unnecessary proposals to initiate new nuclear weapons testing. I also support the bill's inclusion of funding for the Maritime Security Program (MSP) to help mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 on maritime carriers. Additionally, I support the Conference Report's provisions to strengthen the federal government's ability to combat money laundering and counter financing for terrorism.

The Conference Report also takes steps to counter China's increasingly malign influence. This includes mandating a whole-of-government strategy to deter China's industrial espionage and theft of intellectual property, as well as China's large-scale theft of personal information. It also establishes a plan to make the DOD less dependent on Chinese manufacturing, and it pushes back against China's appalling human rights abuses. While these are good first steps, I believe Congress can and should do more to combat China, including standing up against China's trade abuses.

The legislation also establishes guardrails that prohibit the Secretary of Defense from reducing the civilian workforce unless and until the DOD first assesses the impact of such reductions. This will help protect against President Trump's ridiculous attacks—and potential future attacks—on civilian federal employees.

This legislation includes hundreds-of-millions in funding for the construction of additional housing and barracks for training and enlisted personnel, as well as for oversight and improvement of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative (MHPI) program. The NDAA Conference Report also continues Congress's work to address the military's culture of sexual misconduct by including provisions to enhance the prevention of and response to incidents of sexual trauma.

While I strongly support many provisions in this year's NDAA, I believe this legislation should have included additional provisions to rein in our bloated and wasteful defense spending, take back Congress's constitutional war powers authority, and more.

I believe this legislation could have made responsible cuts to our defense budget without jeopardizing the safety of our troops or undermining our national security. For years, Congress has continued to increase the Pentagon's budget despite overwhelming evidence of its waste and abuse of taxpayer money. That's why I supported an amendment to responsibly reduce the Pentagon budget while retaining exceptions to protect service members, civilian employees, and the vital Defense Health Program from this reduction. Frustratingly, this amendment failed to pass.

In particular, I have always opposed the DOD's Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) account, a fiscally irresponsible fund that is not counted in the budget, recklessly adds to our mounting debt, and has no congressional oversight. OCO is a Pentagon slush fund that gives a blank check to fund endless wars that Congress hasn't authorized. I will continue fighting to finally eliminate this irresponsible fund.