

his last mission that maybe the most impactful.

For the last few months, General Semonite has led the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' work to combat the COVID-19 global pandemic. The Corps has helped design or construct alternate care facilities in all 50 states and five territories, adding over 15,000 hospital beds across the country. General Semonite has said: "... of all the things I've done in my career, this is a noble calling to be able to step up and save American lives."

This extraordinary act of service is but ordinary to General Semonite. His passion and vigor for the COVID-19 Mission is the same passion and vigor he has brought to every aspect of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He is the embodiment of "building strong." We would like to express our own thanks and appreciation and that of a grateful nation.

Madam Speaker, I ask our colleagues to join Rep. BRUCE WESTERMAN and me in giving our very best wishes to General Semonite and his wife Connie on the next chapter of an already storied life. Essayons.

HONORING THE LIFE AND UNSELFISH WORK OF A "HAPPY WARRIOR" ROY WEATHERFORD

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 2020

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today in admiration to honor the life and unselfish work of a "Happy Warrior" Roy Weatherford. Roy's dedication to justice, equality, peace and worker rights is worthy of recognition.

Roy's significant contributions to society are rooted in his humble background. Raised in rural Arkansas with no electricity, education was always a top value for his family. While studying at Arkansas Technical University, he not only met his partner for life, Doris, but he found his causes for life—standing up for working people and against injustice. Roy saw firsthand the injustices of the Jim Crow era and was inspired by his professors to forgo his studies in math and physics in favor of philosophy. And, when the administration fired those professors, in a scene that would be repeated often in Roy's career, Roy and his friends rallied and circulated petitions to show support for their beloved professors. Roy was not as successful as he would be later in life in this first foray challenging the powers that be, but he never quit fighting from those days forward. Roy graduated at the top of his class in 1964 and he took a fellowship at Harvard University. A year later, he joined the army as a cryptanalyst just as the war in Vietnam was escalating. While still in the Army, on assignment near the Pentagon, he and Doris were married.

Roy returned to Harvard. Always a brilliant student, his master's thesis won the Bechtel Prize in philosophy and he graduated with his doctorate in 1972. Roy decided to move to Tampa and join the faculty of the emerging University of South Florida (USF). Though he of course had other options, Roy felt that he could make a bigger impact on people's lives at a small upstart school like USF than at a more established school in the Northeast. Roy

observed that in Massachusetts and even Arkansas, community leaders typically come from families that have long been dominant. Roy said, "in Florida, anybody who's willing to work can make a difference." New England's loss was certainly Florida and Tampa's gain, and through his hard work and the differences that he made, he proved his adage.

Just two years after landing in Tampa, Roy was named the chair for the USF chapter of United Faculty Florida (UFF). A perfect fit for his energy, ability and conscience. He fought tirelessly to get more local control for unions and more resources for faculty and students. It has been said that he put a face on the faculty and made their needs real. After being elected union president in 2001, Roy worked until the union was saved. Typically, he went against the grain of the political landscape of the day, which was seeking to decertify unions. His efforts pressed those at the top to continue to recognize the faculty's right to come together. And, when bargaining began locally for the first time, Roy's astuteness, passion and commitment resulted in not only a contract but one including raises for faculty. He lobbied the state government to pass sweeping transformational laws, including Florida's exceptional Government-in-the-Sunshine law and often worked on local and state committees focused on education and workers' rights. Roy set the precedent for how USF and other university administrators work with educators, professors and organized labor. By the time of his retirement, union membership had doubled. Indeed, it has been said that many of UFF's, USF's and organized labor's successes in Florida exist because of Roy's advocacy.

As a scholar, he wrote enthusiastically and intelligibility on world peace. As a person, Roy was a loving and tireless advocate for the same. Roy and Doris protested the Vietnam War and were active in many campaigns and causes—spending countless hours marching in support of civil and women's rights. In Doris' words, he was "concerned and passionate and principled."

Madam Speaker, on behalf of my neighbors in Tampa Bay, Florida and citizens across the United States, I am proud to honor Roy Weatherford for his lifelong dedication to justice, working people and giving a voice to those who often were not allowed to have one. Roy showed us what service above self, passion, empathy, and action look like.

WILLIAM M. (MAC) THORNBERRY
NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021

SPEECH OF

HON. JENNIFER WEXTON

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2020

Ms. WEXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of en bloc No. 2 and my amendment in support of the Uyghur people.

Millions of Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities have been arbitrarily detained and forced by the Chinese government into "re-education" and forced labor camps in Xinjiang.

Under the label of "poverty alleviation," Uyghurs are being assigned to factories in and outside of Xinjiang. These factories feed global supply chains that produce electronics, textiles, shoes, food products, and even PPE.

According to a report from the Australian Strategic Policy Institute, some of the best-known brands in the world, including a number of U.S. companies, are unwittingly profiting from this scheme.

U.S. law prohibits goods made using forced labor from entering our markets. However, Xinjiang accounts for 84 percent of the cotton produced in China, and is responsible for 1 in every 5 bales of cotton produced globally. Unless proactive measures are taken to prohibit sourcing from Xinjiang, U.S. companies risk being complicit in human rights abuses.

My amendment would require DoD to create a process by which companies that sell goods in the commissary and exchange systems, that are partially or wholly manufactured from Xinjiang or with Xinjiang labor, to certify those goods were not manufactured using forced labor.

Given the overwhelming evidence of widespread and systemic forced labor in China, as confirmed by testimony from camp survivors, satellite imagery, and leaked official documents, U.S. companies that import from the region should have already taken proactive measures to audit suppliers.

For companies that haven't, under my amendment, they will be required to do so if they want to continue selling their products on our military bases. I urge my colleagues to support this important amendment.

WILLIAM M. (MAC) THORNBERRY
NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021

SPEECH OF

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2020

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to Division F, the Corporate Transparency Act provision, within Amendment 499 to H.R. 6395, the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2021.

This amendment is part of a larger of package of amendments that the House is voting for en bloc. Many of those provisions I support. I would like to emphasize that my remarks only apply to certain provisions within Amendment 499.

Specifically, I do not support Division F of the amendment which is the text that relates to H.R. 2513 which passed the House floor on October 22, 2019. The legislation addresses how we might combat illicit finance activities through the collection of beneficial ownership information.

I did not support the legislation when it passed the House floor, and I do not support it as a provision in amendment 499. In fact, I have long advocated against this policy since I was elected to Congress over five years ago.

The collection of beneficial ownership has been debated in Congress for a long time as the ability to set up legal entities without accurate beneficial ownership information, has long represented a key vulnerability in the U.S. financial system.

Congresswoman MALONEY, the leader of the legislation, has been trying to pass a bill that would collect beneficial ownership for over a decade.

I agree that knowing where money is coming from, where it is going, and in whose hand it sits is vital to U.S. national security.

However, I cannot support the text as written as it places significant burden on small businesses. The legislation creates a new regulatory database within Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN), a law enforcement unit, which most small businesses have never even heard of. And, even more alarming, if they don't comply, they could face a penalty of up to \$10,000 and a prison sentence of up to 3 years.

This could create significant unintended consequences for a large portion of the economy's commerce.

I believe there is a better path forward, which is why I have long supported aligning tax filings with collection of beneficial ownership information—a regulation small businesses already understand.

Furthermore, it is critical to note that the beneficial ownership information is already required and is already being collected. The Customer Due Diligence (CDD) Rule, which took effect in May 2018 requires banks to identify and verify the identity of the beneficial owners of companies opening accounts.

The CDD rule is operational and effective. Why would we upend this regulation, that has been working for over two years, to place unnecessary burdens on our local dry cleaners, our farming community, or the realtor that sold you your house, or any other small business? These are the types of individuals that will have to comply FinCEN, an organization they have never heard of, if this amendment becomes law.

We should be able to find a solution to collect this information that alleviates the bank burden while not subjecting small businesses to unnecessarily complicated reporting requirements.

For these reasons, I cannot support Ms. MALONEY's amendment.

TRIBUTE TO MASTER GUNNERY SERGEANT KENNETH PINCKARD

HON. GREGORY F. MURPHY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 2020

Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Master Gunnery Sergeant Kenneth Pinckard in honor of his retirement from the Marine Corps after 28 faithful and honorable years of service. He spent his career supporting strategic intelligence operations, analyzing the enemy's intentions on the homefront and abroad, thus thwarting multiple enemy attacks and saving countless civilian and military lives in between.

Master Gunnery Sergeant Pinckard, a fearless leader, played an instrumental role in the development and recruitment of Marines coming into the command. All the freedoms we enjoy today are because of these brave men and women in uniform, like Master Gunnery Sergeant Pinckard, who so unselfishly and courageously put their lives in harm's way for their fellow brothers and sisters.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring the retirement of this selfless Marine. I wish Master Gunnery Sergeant Pinckard and his family all the peace and blessings as they embark on this next journey together.

CONGRATULATING PRINCIPALS PATRICE BRAND AND ERIN DOTY

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 21, 2020

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, congratulations to Patrice Brand and Erin Doty on being named principals in Lexington-Richland School District Five. Together they bring over 40 years of experience to the school district for the students.

Patrice Brand has served as assistant principal of instruction at the Academy For Success since 2019. Prior to that job, she served as assistant principal at a middle school and a high school in Charlotte, N.C. She replaces Danielle Major-Murphy, who was named the new principal of Irmo Middle School.

Erin Doty previously served as the assistant principal of instruction at Irmo Middle School. She also served as assistant principal at Dutch Fork Middle School from August 2013 to June 2017. Doty replaces Justin Thomas, who was named the district's new coordinator of student information systems.

They have set the standard of excellence in their community through their work, and I wish them the best in their new positions.

WILLIAM M. (MAC) THORNBERRY NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021

SPEECH OF

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2020

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the FY 2021 National Defense Authorization Act.

Our country is going through turbulent times.

People are taking to the streets to cry out for real justice and an end to racism that pervades so many institutions in our country, not just the police or criminal justice system.

They are crying out for investments in society; in education, social services, housing, and healthcare.

Over the weekend, we lost one of our true champions for justice and equality, and a true leader a remarkable human being, Congressman John Lewis, who I was privileged to call a friend.

A deadly pandemic has killed over 140,000 Americans in nearly four months, and cases are still surging, setting new records almost daily in the last few weeks. Yet, the President continues to dissemble, disengage, and diminish the threat of this pandemic, despite the advice of our nation's public health experts and the obvious and immediate need for a credible and strong federal response and leadership.

That's what this moment is calling for . . . Leadership. Not more of the same.

But what we have here before us today folks is legislation that won't invest in a single meal for a hungry child, a vaccine for the pandemic, or help for the homeless or those about to lose their homes. Furthermore, the bill, in my opinion, is a retreat by Congress from its power to protect the power of the purse and our war powers.

I recognize and appreciate the work of Chairman SMITH and his committee on this legislation. I know that countless hours of hearings, testimony, and a long markup went into putting together this bill.

However, anyway you slice it, the Pentagon's budget has increased dramatically since September 11, 2001. The war in Afghanistan is the longest conflict in our nation's history and it shows little sign of ending, even with a supposed peace deal in hand.

I support the amendment put forward by Mr. POCAN that would cut the defense budget while still providing for our national defense. The amendment would exempt the Defense Health Programs and Military Personnel Accounts from any cuts.

We cannot continue to mindlessly push forward defense budgets that are out of line with the threats that face our nation or the needs of our country. The U.S. spends more money than any other country on our military, but can any American look around and say with a clear conscience that all that spending has produced more peace, more world stability, or better overall outcomes for Americans, or our global brothers and sisters?

All this treasure we throw at defense is not even helping the military itself, as a series of incidents over the past year has raised concerns about readiness.

In fact, we appear to be spending more and more money on defense, yet our forces are less and less prepared, and it is taking longer and more money to deploy weapons systems.

As noted by a bipartisan group of House members nearly a decade ago, "We know the United States can maintain the best fighting force in the world while also pursuing sensible defense savings. How we spend our resources is just as important as how much we spend."

Former Defense Secretary Robert Gates, who served under both Republicans and Democrats, put it succinctly: "We must come to realize that not every defense program is necessary, not every defense dollar is scared and well-spent, and that more of nearly everything is simply not sustainable" especially at a time when "the gap between the U.S. military and the rest of the world . . . will continue to be vast."

I would also have liked to support the Schakowsky amendment on Iran; unfortunately, it was not made in order. Last year, the House voted at least three times, including on the FY 2020 NDAA, about the need to prevent a needless war with Iran and to reclaim our war powers to ensure that any such decision properly remains the provenance of Congress.

I am grateful that the House Appropriations Committee recently adopted an amendment to its FY 2021 Defense Appropriations bill to stop a needless war with Iran absent formal congressional authority. But we need to take every opportunity to make clear how dangerous any ill-advised war with Iran would be. Given a President who's decision-making is as reckless as it is illinformed, this Congress must consistently push for an end to escalation and saber rattling and instead to work towards immediate diplomatic solutions. This bill is a missed opportunity, one I hope that we do not come back to regret.