

and on new legislation, he has been a gentleman, and he has been a person I could work with.

We have some disagreements, don't we, GREG?

But that says a lot that we can disagree and still be friends.

I went to Oregon to visit and to see the eclipse, and GREG invited me to go to his place with his friends and watch it with them. I really appreciated that. So it shows you that people can get along in this institution, work together, and have respect for each other.

□ 1745

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS), a member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank my dear friend from Michigan for organizing this really important Special Order.

I have to say, many of you probably heard the phrase, a politician thinks about the next election, but it is a statesman who thinks about the next generation.

GREG WALDEN of Oregon is both. He is an amazing politician, but he is an even more important statesman for our next generation.

Representative WALDEN has been a mentor to many. When he was chair of NRCC, he mentored and helped so many people become a part of this great institution. But then he mentored people like me, along with Representative UPTON of Michigan, to make it to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, where I knew that big things got done and that the world was our jurisdiction.

Not only was he a mentor, but he rose to chair of that committee, and he did it with humility, he did it with humor, he did it with wisdom. And I am so glad you talked about all of the things he accomplished, but he always reminded us that he was an Oregon broadcaster, first and foremost, and that he loved his incredible State of Oregon, and was such a leader.

Mr. Speaker, it has been my pleasure—and my husband David's pleasure—to travel with he and Mylene, and more importantly, most recently, to get to know his son, that next generation of leaders, Anthony.

I thank you for the opportunities you gave me and so many of my colleagues. I wish you the best in retirement. You have been an amazing mentor, an amazing friend, and an amazing leader in this country. You are a statesman, my friend.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I want to report some breaking news. Roll Call has just put something out online, it will be published tomorrow. And the headline is: "Adulthood might be alive and well in Congress. The retiring LAMAR ALEXANDER and GREG WALDEN show it's possible to do your job in public life while acting like a grown-up."

That is GREG. He got things done. He was an Eagle Scout when he was a

youngster, still is a mighty big Ducks fan. You can't walk into his office without seeing the Ducks. He is in a lot better mood on Monday when you see him if the Ducks win. They didn't win the other day. But he has been a really special individual with real care and handling of all the different issues that our committee deals with.

A partner in leadership on both sides of the aisle, his word is his bond. His staff has been terrific, all of them: All the subcommittee staff, his personal staff, and obviously, his greatest staff person, Mylene. Mylene and his son, Anthony, we have watched him grow up from when Anthony was a youngster, but Mylene has been a special friend, really, to all of us. She puts up with GREG. Usually, she is on the West Coast while he is over here.

Mr. Speaker, he has been a special talent that has been lent to our committee to make this country a better place.

Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time is remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 3 minutes remaining.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN).

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank all my colleagues who came down tonight to share these words. I want to assure the American people—it feels like a eulogy—I am actually still alive but deeply indebted for their generosity, their kindness, and their words tonight. It means a lot.

I have told people I am not one of the grumpy, cranky Members leaving. This is a great institution with really good people who do good work here. We may not always agree, as my friend from Oregon or my friend from California said, but it doesn't mean we have to be disagreeable. We come here to solve problems. We approach them from different angles representing different Americans, but we come here to find solutions.

I have been so blessed to work with people like Mrs. BROOKS, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and my friend from Michigan, Mr. UPTON, and the others who were down here. It is a team effort, and we live in a really, really great country. I have been so blessed to be a part of this institution for the last 22 years.

Mr. Speaker, I had hair when I came here. Honest. I can show you photos. So it will take a lot out of you. But when I do return home, I will complete my 644th round trip between the Nation's Capitol and home. I did that because I really wanted to stay in touch, and my family is here, and yet it proves the point. On almost every flight, my friend from the Portland area, Mr. BLUMENAUER, has been right there with me, and our colleague, Mr. DEFazio, almost every trip. And it is what we do as Members here. We go home, we listen to our constituents, we come back, we try and find solutions, whether it is on opioids or internet connectivity, or all the things that have been referenced tonight.

My success is attributed to the people I have been able to work with, my colleagues. And as Mr. UPTON said, our terrific, brilliant staff in this institution, who work literally day and night. And I know because I get texts from them at midnight when they are reading through a bill or working on an agreement and negotiating at the staff-to-staff level. America is well-served by this institution, and I wish more Americans saw the kind of camaraderie that we have here, the comity we have here, and the accomplishment that we do here.

Mr. Speaker, this place still works, and I just wish well the incoming class of new Members who bring new energy and new ideas to this process. I know they, too, come here to represent their people back home.

Mr. Speaker, to my friends, thank you. This was most generous, over the top, and a big surprise. I thought I was just headed off as a homeless Member of Congress with no office to find something to eat, but instead, Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS said I needed to come with her over here.

Thank you to my friends. Mr. UPTON, my dear friend—he and Amey and my wife and I are very close—thank you for your kindness and your words. I will have a more formal farewell speech I will give later this week on the House floor, so I will reserve any further comments to that time.

Mr. Speaker, I just would, again, thank my friend from Michigan, Mr. UPTON.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

NATIONAL CYBER DIRECTOR ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN) for 30 minutes.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the Conference Report to accompany the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2021 that we will be considering tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, this is my 20th NDAA, and as ever, I am incredibly proud of the bipartisan work that went in to creating it. Amidst all the 1300 provisions, however, I want to focus on section 1752.

Section 1752 is based on my bill, H.R. 7331, the National Cyber Director Act, and it is the result of more than 10 years of deliberative thought and advocacy. The provision is simple enough. It creates an Office of the National Cyber Director within the Executive Office of the President. The office is led by a director who will be Presidentially appointed and confirmed by the Senate.

The National Cyber Director is charged with being the President's principal adviser on matters of cybersecurity policy with developing and overseeing implementation of the national cyber strategy. He or she will

also be responsible for coordinating government response to serious cyber incidents. And as I said, simple enough, but this represents a complete sea change in the way cybersecurity is handled in the Federal Government.

The need could not be more urgent. Of course, cyber operations, whether carried out by criminals or nation states, continue to threaten us as a Nation. Hardly a day goes by where we don't read about a new ransomware attack taking down an entire hospital system or shutting down businesses. Our adversaries target our elections to strike at the heart of our democracy. They target our defense industrial base that gives us our competitive edge. They are even targeting vaccine research that may be the key to ending the terrible pandemic that we are living through.

Mr. Speaker, cyberspace is a new domain, and the first that has been created entirely by humankind. We would not expect that emerging security challenges in cyberspace would be easy to tackle, and, of course, they have proven to be quite difficult.

After all, many security paradigms that developed about borders are virtually meaningless when it is as easy to attack a computer across the room as it is to attack one half a world away. While decidedly thorny, these challenges are not insurmountable.

However, the Federal Government has not risen to the challenges as well as we could hope. There are many reasons for this, but probably the most important of which is that nobody really is in charge. Cybersecurity is often passed off as an IT problem, best left to the geeks to handle, instead of being recognized as an operational risk that needs attention from senior leadership.

Most Federal agencies do not have cybersecurity in their core missions, so investments in cyber capabilities can fall by the wayside. Computer systems also pervade every aspect of the Federal Government's work, so coordination is required across the entire inter-agency.

The failures to rise to address these challenges poses real risk to the government. Sensitive government data, such as clearance information stored at the Office of Personnel Management, has been stolen. U.S. corporations suffer billions of dollars in damages each year from cyber incidents, and other adversaries increasingly view the cyber domain as ideal for conducting asymmetric warfare in the "gray zone," below the level of armed conflict.

Mr. Speaker, for more than a decade, I have been involved in numerous efforts to root out underlying causes of the government's inability to get its arms around the cybersecurity problem. Most recently, I had the distinct privilege of serving on the Cyberspace Solarium Commission, a 14-member body chartered by Congress to develop a strategic approach to protect the United States from cyber incidents of significant consequence.

One of the things that these efforts have universally uncovered—a finding endorsed recently by the Government Accountability Office—is that a lack of centralized leadership in the White House is holding the government back.

Mr. Speaker, only the White House has the ability to compel interagency cooperation and ensure that cybersecurity efforts are synergistic and deduplicated.

Only the White House can ensure that budgets are adequate, both for internal cyber defense and external cybersecurity programs aimed at protecting the private sector.

Only the White House can effectively coordinate incident response across two dozen agencies with some cybersecurity responsibility.

Now, Presidents Bush and Obama both made strides in improving cybersecurity policy coordination within the White House, changes that were at first carried forward by President Trump and his Homeland Security adviser. But none of them gave the position they created the gravitas and authority it needed to be successful. And eventually, then-national Director John Bolton, eventually eliminated the cybersecurity coordinating position altogether.

Congress needed to step in and provide strategic direction with the National Cyber Director Act that we have here. Finally, we will have the accountability that comes from having a leader within the Executive Office of the President that we can interrogate about cyber strategy writ large, and that we, as the Congress, will in turn be accountable to our constituents for ensuring the strategy is executed and resourced properly.

This NDAA will be an incredibly important bill in the history of cybersecurity legislation, and I am honored to have played a key role in advancing it.

□ 1800

Mr. Speaker, like any bill a decade in the making, many hands have gotten us to this point with the National Cyber Director Act. First off, I owe an enormous debt of gratitude to Speaker NANCY PELOSI for appointing me as her designee to the Cyberspace Solarium Commission. Developing and implementing the commission report has been one of the highlights of my congressional career, and much of the progress that we have made on the National Cyber Director is due to my fellow commissioners.

I want to start with Congressman Patrick Murphy as my original ally on this proposal, based on his experience in these Halls and in the executive branch.

Tom Fanning brought his expertise as a major utility executive in crafting a recommendation that ensures accountability.

Frank Cilluffo focused relentlessly on appropriately scoping the authorities of the office, while Suzanne Spaulding fought to ensure that the

National Cyber Director will have insight into all U.S. operations in the cyber domain.

Dr. Samantha Ravich's initial scepticism was essential to making sure the final recommendation reflects the realities of working within the Executive Office of the President.

Finally, Chris Inglis's invaluable feedback means that the bill we vote on tomorrow will fit squarely within the strategic vision laid out by the commission. Despite my years working on this proposal, I was always impressed by Chris's ability to elegantly connect the National Cyber Director recommendation with our broader mission.

I would never have been exposed to the idea of a stronger coordinating authority within the White House were it not for my time on the Center for Strategic and International Studies' Commission on Cybersecurity for the 44th Presidency, which I was proud to co-chair. My fellow co-chairs, General Harry Raduege, Scott Charney, and especially Congressman MICHAEL MCCAUL, all helped shape my thinking during my first deep dive on this topic. And, of course, we would have been lost without the expert guidance of CSIS's Jim Lewis, the commission's executive director.

After 9 years of trying to pass a bill to codify a cybersecurity role within the White House, what changed this year?

Well, quite frankly, John Bolton and his poor decisionmaking changed the equation. Given the ever-increasing threat in cyberspace, I don't think anyone realistically thought that somebody would dare eliminate the cyber coordinator at the White House. Yet, in one of the worst cybersecurity policy moves ever seen, Bolton did just that, making clear the need for congressional action to establish a permanent cyber director.

That need was well understood by Chairman ADAM SMITH, who has backed the inclusion of Solarium recommendations in the NDAA since day one and who has consistently supported the National Cyber Director Act.

Chairwoman CAROLYN MALONEY also provided vital support. When I first spoke to her about the Solarium report, she immediately got why leadership in the White House was so important. In addition to joining the National Cyber Director Act as an original cosponsor, she convened a legislative hearing that teed up consideration on the House floor. The witnesses at that hearing—former House Intelligence Committee Chairman MIKE ROGERS, former Obama Cybersecurity Coordinator Michael Daniel, Tenable CEO Amit Yoran, and Suzanne Spaulding—made a clear and compelling case for an expedited consideration of the bill.

Chairman JIM MCGOVERN and his Rules Committee colleagues took up this charge, ruling in order an amendment consisting of the text of H.R. 7331 during our floor debate on the NDAA.

As my colleagues well know, passing the House is only half the battle. Here is where my fellow legislative commissioners really carried the day:

Senator BEN SASSE, who authored the legislation to create the Cyberspace Solarium Commission, made more efficiently organizing the government a central part of his push for improved cybersecurity.

Our colleague and Solarium co-chair, Congressman MIKE GALLAGHER, has been with me every step of the way, on the National Cyber Director and the 16 other Solarium provisions we moved through the NDAA process.

Anyone who claims bipartisanship is dead in Washington has not met these two exemplars of comity and serious policy deliberativeness.

In the Senate, my counterpart, the chair of the Senate Armed Services Committee's Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Senator MIKE ROUNDS, has been a negotiating partner without equal. Senator ROUNDS came to the table with an open mind, asked tough but fair questions, requested additional information about our proposal, and, at the end of the day, helped to strengthen it and push it through the conference process.

I also thank Congressman KATKO, who went to bat for the National Cyber Director in conversations with the White House.

A special note of thanks is reserved for our other Solarium co-chair, Senator ANGUS KING. Senator KING has been the soul of the Solarium Commission, and I continue to be in awe of his steady leadership throughout the process. Senator KING's maxims—whether that “sloppy structure leads to sloppy policy” or that we needed “one throat to choke” in the executive branch—perfectly encapsulate the central theme and issues at stake. I can say for a fact that no one fought harder to ensure that the Senate accepted a strong version of the National Cyber Director Act in the conference process.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, as all of my colleagues know, we would be lost in this institution without the staff that supports us. I never would have begun this journey in cybersecurity policy if it were not for Jake Olcott, my former staff director on the Committee on Homeland Security's Subcommittee on Emerging Threats, Cyber Security, and Science and Technology.

Likewise, my then-MLA Davis Hake helped draft and introduce the Executive Cyberspace Authorities Act of 2010 that provided the scaffolding for the National Cyber Director Act; and his successor, Michael Hermann, further refined the concept.

The Solarium Commission staff has been, frankly, extraordinary to work with and a great testament to the commission's executive director, Admiral Mark Montgomery. From day one, Mark challenged us to draft a report that would be actionable, not just a doorstop, and this NDAA is a realization of his vision and his unflinching work ethic.

My fellow legislators' Solarium liaisons—Steve Smith on Senator KING's staff, Chas Morrison on Congressman GALLAGHER's, and Brett Fetterly on Senator SASSE's—stepped up to ensure that all of the oars stayed rowing in the same direction, no matter how choppy the waters.

We would never have had a hearing on the bill were it not for Emily Burns of Chairwoman MALONEY's staff. Lori Ismail was our critical link at the Rules Committee to ensure the bill would have the opportunity to be debated and voted upon.

On the Senate side, Jeff Rothblum from Ranking Member PETER's staff helped us navigate the jurisdictional hurdles that come with any piece of cybersecurity legislation and offered insightful comments and guidance throughout the process.

During the conference process itself, we relied heavily on Katie Sutton and Kirk McConnell, two true pros on the Senate Armed Services Committee staff; and Eric Snelgrove, staff lead for Ranking Member ELISE STEFANIK.

Lastly, but surely not least, I want to acknowledge my own staff. My MLA, Caroline Goodson, ably assisted by our defense fellow, Captain Mike Lake, thrived in her first NDAA and expertly balanced the many priorities I have within my IETC portfolio and for my constituents in Rhode Island.

My cybersecurity fellows David Wagner, Eric Saund, and particularly Allison Browning, have all been brilliant minds and wonderful team players who have helped me get the most out of the Solarium Commission.

At the end of the day, though, this bill never would have gotten done without my IETC cyber lead, Josh Stiefel. Josh immediately understood the importance of the National Cyber Director, based on his time working on cybersecurity in the interagency. Using that experience and his skill at negotiating, he definitely steered the National Cyber Director Act—and more than two dozen other Solarium recommendations—through the NDAA. One of the hardest things to do is to entrust someone else with something of great value to you, but I never had any hesitation letting Josh work the staff-level discussions. I am incredibly lucky to have him on my team.

Finally, and most importantly, the National Cyber Director Act, the dozens of other Solarium recommendations, and countless other cyber initiatives that I have developed over the years would never have existed were it not for my legislative director, Nick Leiserson. Nick has been the engine on my cyber policy work for 6 years. His legislative expertise and commitment to advancing effective cybersecurity policy have elevated the cyber discussion on Capitol Hill and kept our country safer. He has worked tirelessly for many years, and I am deeply grateful for how he has turned the National Cyber Director idea into legislation and finally into reality.

Mr. Speaker, this year's NDAA is one of the most important pieces of cybersecurity legislation ever to be considered by Congress. There are so many cyber provisions—from creating the Joint Cyber Planning Office at the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency to requiring a cyber force structure assessment—that we had to create a new title for the bill. But the crown jewel is the National Cyber Director Act.

I look forward to working with President Biden, Vice President HARRIS, and the new administration to stand up this office. I have often said that there are no silver bullets in cybersecurity policymaking, and I still believe that. But I know that I will sleep more soundly knowing that there is a central coordinating figure in the White House empowered to protect the country. I hope that the legacy of this bill will be safety, security, and stability in cyberspace for decades to come.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. ADERHOLT (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY) for today and the balance of the week on account of quarantining as recommended by the Office of Attending Physician due to a positive Coronavirus test.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Cheryl L. Johnson, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 3349. An act to authorize the Daughters of the Republic of Texas to establish the Republic of Texas Legation Memorial as a commemorative work in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3465. An act to authorize the Fallen Journalists Memorial Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes.

SENATE ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The Speaker announced her signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 910. An act to reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College Program Act, and for other purposes.

S. 945. An act to amend the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 to require certain issuers to disclose to the Securities and Exchange Commission information regarding foreign jurisdictions that prevent the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board from performing inspections under that Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1069. An act to require the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to establish a constituent-driven program to provide a digital information platform capable of efficiently integrating coastal data with decision-support tools, training, and best practices and