

safe and healthy. I had the pleasure of watching them grow up and become the men they are today.

I think we can all agree that a parent's worst nightmare is losing a child. Any parent that has to bury to their child deserves the time and dignity to cope with that grief—a hole in the heart that doesn't heal, but around which one must build anew and move forward however possible.

I hope that someday time to fully mourn a child is available for everyone in America, but at least my amendment to the FY 22 NDAA would guarantee paid bereavement leave for federal employees. This is an important step forward and I hope that we can show even more compassion in the future.

My second amendment would codify the Boots to Business program into law.

Boots to Business is an established, successful training program that has helped servicemembers transitioning into civilian life to start their own businesses. It has already trained more than 100,000 servicemembers on the essential skills of entrepreneurship and this amendment would ensure that many more can benefit from it.

My final amendment would have the Department of Defense create a U.S.-Israel Operations-Technology Working Group. This working group will enable further sharing of information vital to combating current and future threats and enhance our mutual security and the security of the Middle East as a whole.

I appreciate the inclusion of my three amendments in the FY 22 NDAA and support its passage.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 27, 2021

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, during Roll Call Vote Number 293 on H.R. 4350, the National Defense Authorization Act of 2022, I mistakenly recorded my vote as YEA when I should have voted NAY.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 27, 2021

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I was unexpectedly withheld. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 273, NAY on Roll Call No. 282, and NAY on Roll Call No. 287.

HONORING ANTHONY J. WONG

HON. DWIGHT EVANS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 27, 2021

Mr. EVANS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an influential and dedicated gentleman

from Philadelphia, Anthony J. Wong, a devoted public servant, and former Philadelphia Police Chief Inspector who died on September 8, 2021 at the age of 93.

Anthony J. Wong was born in Philadelphia on April 17, 1928 and was the only child of Chinese immigrants who owned a restaurant in Chinatown. After high school, he joined the Army and served in the World War II Occupation Forces in Europe. He also served in the Korean War. In the Army, he served in counterintelligence, as interrogator, a translator, and in the military police.

Inspector Wong dedicated his life and career to this country and to the city of Philadelphia. He joined the Philadelphia Police Department in 1953 after serving in the U.S. Army. At that time, he was the sole Chinese American officer on the force. He retired from the police force in 2003 as the highest-ranking officer of Asian American descent.

While in the Philadelphia Police Department, Mr. Wong served in several units, including in narcotics, vice enforcement, and patrol. He twice led the Training Bureau and commanded the Community Relations Division and the Patrol Bureau, which encompassed emergency planning. His last assignment was as Commanding Officer of the Police Training Bureau at the Police Academy.

Mr. Wong was well rounded and highly respected by many. A man with many talents, he spoke multiple languages. He attended the University of Vienna in Austria, the Fels Institute of Local and State Government at the University of Pennsylvania, and the Universal School of Languages and Translation Bureau.

Additionally, Mr. Wong was a college adjunct professor. He taught criminal justice, criminal investigation, and laws and procedures at the Community College of Philadelphia. He was fluent in German and used his skills to help Jewish concentration camp survivors who relocated to Philadelphia.

Furthermore, he was very active in his community. He was a founding member of the Philadelphia Chinatown Development Corp. (PCDC), which was founded in 1969 after the Chinatown community in Philadelphia began fighting plans to demolish Holy Redeemer Catholic Church and School to build the Vine Street Expressway. Although he was a police captain and could not partake in the street protests, he attended meetings and offered his expertise. He was also on the board of the On Lok House, an apartment building for low-income senior citizens. According to Cecilia Moy Yep, the PCDC founder, Mr. Wong was "very faithful to Chinatown. He was active in the meetings, particularly on the On Lok House. That was his baby."

As evidenced by his historic career Anthony J. Wong, dedicated his life to advocating and improving the lives of others. He was a model public servant. The 3rd Congressional District of Pennsylvania extends gratitude to Mr. Wong for his dedicated support and service to the Chinatown community and the city of Philadelphia. And offer sincere condolences to his family and friends on his passing.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GOOD HART GENERAL STORE

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 27, 2021

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the 50th Anniversary of the Good Hart General Store of Emmet County, Michigan. Through its five decades of service and steadfast devotion to its community, the General Store has become a local landmark and an indispensable part of Michigan's First District.

The General Store was first constructed in 1934 by local resident, Cliff Powers. Along with serving as a local Postmaster, Mr. Powers used his store as a grocer and gas station to bring needed supplies to his community. He would continue to operate his local business for almost 40 years until selling it to Carolyn Sutherland in 1971. She has successfully preserved the history and significance of the General Store ever since. While also managing the store, Ms. Sutherland leads Graham Real Estate in Good Hart where she has continuously worked to better the lives of her community and the State of Michigan.

Madam Speaker, it's my honor to recognize the Good Hart General Store for fifty years of success and service to Northern Michigan. Michiganders can take great pride in knowing the First District is home to such dedicated citizens that help preserve our most treasured businesses and landmarks. On behalf of my constituents, I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

TADD OVERSTREET AND STYLUS AND CRATE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 27, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tadd Overstreet and Stylus & Crate of Wheat Ridge, Colorado for receiving the 2021 Wheat Ridge Chamber of Commerce Business of the Year Award.

The Wheat Ridge Chamber of Commerce Business of the Year Award is meant to recognize a Wheat Ridge Business for their outstanding performance in business during the past year. Stylus & Crate, a coffee shop in the heart of Wheat Ridge, greets visitors with fantastic art and music to match. With plenty of vinyl records to choose from, the local coffee shop always provides an uplifting and fun experience for its patrons. Additionally, Stylus & Crate prides itself on responsibly sourcing all of its coffee.

Congratulations to the Stylus & Crate team for their contributions to our community, particularly during a challenging year. I wish them all the best in the future.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ROCK CREEK NATIONAL PARK ACT OF 2021

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 27, 2021

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to introduce a bill to redesignate the National Park Service (NPS)-owned Rock Creek Park in the District of Columbia as "Rock Creek National Park." Renaming this park will highlight its significance to the nation, including visitors to the nation's capital, and will draw much-needed funding for the park's inviting trails, waterways and other unique features.

Rock Creek Park is already a "national" park, as it was established by Congress in 1890 "for the benefit and enjoyment of the people of the United States." Rock Creek Park was the first federally managed urban park and the third federal park ever created, after Yellowstone and Sequoia. Rock Creek Park was designed to preserve animals, timber, forestry and other interests in the park, and to ensure that its natural state is maintained as much as possible not only for D.C. residents, but for all Americans. The park also preserves the ancient history of the land, as it was used for temporary settlements and as a quarry for weapons and tools by Native Americans from 7000 BCE until the 1600s.

Since Congress first designated Rock Creek Park, several structures and properties have been established or donated to further preserve Rock Creek Park, creating a vast connected park area that falls under a central NPS jurisdiction. In 1892, the federal government acquired Peirce Mill in Rock Creek Park, one of the mills used by local farmers during the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries. In 1950, the Old Stone House located in Georgetown, with its great pre-Revolutionary War architecture, was acquired by the park. The building was restored and programs explain the house's rich history from the colonial period to the present day. The Fort Circle Parks were also acquired to interpret and preserve the Civil War Defenses of Washington, which created a ring of protection for the nation's capital during the Civil War. The Carter Barron Amphitheater, established in honor of the 150th anniversary of the nation's capital, became an integral part of D.C.'s live music scene, and has featured acts including Ella Fitzgerald, Diana Ross and Earth, Wind and Fire, as well as local artists. The redesignated "Rock Creek National Park" would encompass these later additions to the park.

Today, Rock Creek Park offers residents of D.C., Maryland and Northern Virginia, as well as thousands of visitors, an escape from our increasingly urban environment. Residents and tourists alike enjoy many activities in the park's 2,000 acres, including hiking and biking on the historical trails, horseback riding, picnicking, tennis and other recreational activities in some of the open fields. Our residents have expressed their appreciation by volunteering to clean up and maintain the forests, trails and waterways.

In 1918, landscape architects John Charles Olmstead and Frederick Law Olmstead, Jr. wrote of Rock Creek Park, "No matter how perfect the scenery of the park may be or may

become, no matter how high its potential value, that value remains potential except insofar as it is enjoyed by large and ever larger numbers of people, poor and rich alike." Redesignating Rock Creek Park as Rock Creek National Park will help recognize the national status of the park and protect and revitalize this remarkable resource in our nation's capital.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

H.R. 4350, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 27, 2021

Mr. DeFAZIO. Madam Speaker, on September 23, I voted in opposition to H.R. 4350, the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022. While I support several Democratic policy priorities included in this legislation, I also have significant concerns with numerous provisions, including the irresponsibly bloated topline defense spending of \$768 billion that this legislation authorizes.

I strongly support the well-deserved 2.7 percent pay raise that this legislation grants our men and women in uniform. This is the very least we can do for those who continue to make extraordinary sacrifices for our country.

This legislation includes additional vital benefits for military servicemembers and their families, such as expanded parental leave, improved mental health care services, a new basic needs allowance for lower income servicemembers, and more.

I also strongly support the provisions included to combat the scourge of sexual assault in the military, including by creating an Office of Special Victim Prosecutor to prosecute these crimes, removing the commanding officer from decisions related to sexual assault, and finally criminalizing sexual harassment under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

As a long-time advocate for strengthening Congress's constitutional war powers authorities and limiting executive authority to engage in armed conflict without Congress's consent, I cosponsored an amendment to prohibit unauthorized U.S. participation in the Saudi-led coalition's war in Yemen. I am pleased that this amendment passed the House and will push my colleagues to keep this amendment in the final NOAA conference legislation.

While I strongly support provisions in this year's NDAA, I ultimately voted against it because 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.

Instead of increasing the defense budget by several billion dollars for yet another year in a row, I strongly believe this legislation could have made responsible cuts to our defense budget without jeopardizing the safety of our troops or undermining our national security. It's beyond time for us to invest in domestic priorities for Oregonians and the American people here at home.

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. Unfortunately, this amendment failed to pass the House.

For years, Congress has continued to increase the Pentagon's budget despite overwhelming evidence of its waste, fraud, and abuse of taxpayer money. It's absolutely ridiculous and irresponsible to continue throwing increasing amounts of taxpayer money at the Pentagon and lining the pockets of greedy defense contractors and special interests every year, when the Pentagon cannot even account for where this money goes.

I have long supported a financial audit of the Pentagon. Unlike every other federal agency, the DOD has yet to ever pass a financial audit. For three years in a row, the Pentagon has spectacularly failed full audits, each of which highlighted numerous examples of waste and abuse. It is ridiculous to provide the Pentagon a massive spending increase—as this bill does—when the Pentagon cannot even account for how it spends taxpayer money. That's why I'm a cosponsor of legislation to require and incentivize every component of the DOD to finally pass an audit.

This legislation should have included more provisions to take back Congress's constitutional war powers authority, including repealing the long-outdated 2001 and 2002 authorizations for the use of military force (AUMFs). I also cosponsored and voted in favor of an amendment to end unauthorized U.S. military involvement in Syria. The U.S. military has maintained a years-long presence in Syria without congressional approval, in contravention of the Constitution and the War Powers Resolution of 1973. While this amendment unfortunately failed, I will continue fighting to stop this unauthorized, endless war.

I am also disappointed that amendments I supported either failed to pass the House or were not made in order. This includes amendments to curb the irresponsible expansion of U.S. nuclear weapons, to strengthen Buy America provisions to ensure the military supports U.S. manufacturers, to ensure veterans who were wrongfully dishonorably discharged for their sexual orientation are able to receive the veterans benefits they earned, and more.

I also strongly oppose provisions in this legislation that would expand military draft registration to all Americans aged 18–25, including women. I have long opposed military draft registration and have introduced legislation to repeal the Selective Service System (SSS) altogether. The SSS is an archaic, unnecessary, unwanted, and wasteful bureaucracy that violates Americans' civil liberties and subjects Americans who fail to register—largely through no fault of their own—with unnecessarily severe, lifelong penalties, all without due process. These penalties can include denial of employment, job training, educational benefits, student loans, grants, citizenship, driver's licenses, and more—at both the federal and state levels—and they disproportionately affect low income individuals and people of color.

The military itself and presidents of both parties have consistently agreed there is no military or national security imperative to ever reinstate a draft.

That's why I co-lead amendments to repeal military draft registration and eliminate these