

JAMES M. INHOFE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023

SPEECH OF

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2022

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H. Res. 1512, James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023. This bill contains many important provisions that should become law, but unfortunately those policies are outweighed by the staggering increase in military spending. Accordingly, I cannot support the bill as a whole.

I am grateful for the inclusion of robust policies to protect our ocean, especially provisions from my legislation, the BLUE GLOBE Act. These provisions will direct existing ocean-focused interagency committees to coordinate overlapping data collection, align supercomputing and data storage efforts, develop cross-agency databases, and support consistent archiving practices. The legislation will also better assess the value of the Blue Economy, develop a study on workforce shortages related to careers in oceanic and atmospheric data collection, and identify actions the federal government can take to promote diversity in STEM education. Further, it directs the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to create, maintain, and regularly update a publicly available website that provides information about all resiliency grant programs. H.R. 7776 also prevents illegal fishing and forced labor, enhances marine mammal conservation, including of whales in the Puget Sound, and eliminates shark fin sales.

I also strongly support the pay increase for our troops, increased funding for research conducted at Historically Black Colleges and Universities, an increased military housing allowance, and providing reimbursement for members of the Armed Forces for childcare costs related to permanent base changes. Additionally, I commend Chairman SMITH for his ongoing advocacy for additional funding for the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative, which provides support and assistance to the Ukrainian Armed Forces in their response to Russian aggression.

I cannot ignore, however, the unprecedented amount of military spending this legislation authorizes while too many Oregonians and Americans continue to struggle economically. This bill costs \$847.3 billion, which far exceeds the President's budget request of \$773 billion. In our current economy, supporting more than 74 billion additional dollars, primarily for weapons, is unjustifiable when our communities desperately need food and housing security, access to high-quality childcare, affordable health care, and support for small businesses. We must not accept the notion that annual increases in defense spending are inevitable and can be rationalized as modest when Americans continue to struggle.

I do not take this vote lightly and my commitment to providing for our servicemembers remains steadfast. It is a complex and challenging task to responsibly fund our national defense, but I am confident that we can main-

tain adequate security while reining in the immense and ever-increasing sums that endlessly pour into the military-industrial complex. I look forward to continued engagement with my colleagues as we address these difficult issues.

RECOGNIZING TRUSTEE MEGAN ROUSE

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2022

Mr. SWALWELL. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize outgoing Dublin Unified School District Trustee Megan Rouse as her term ends on Tuesday, December 13, 2022, after nine years of serving Dublin's students.

Megan graduated from Smith College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Physics and Mathematics in 1993. After moving to Dublin in 1997, she returned to school and earned a Master of Business Administration with an emphasis in Finance from the University of California Berkeley's Haas School of Business in 2001.

Megan began her career in corporate investment banking in New York and San Francisco. She remains a Certified Financial Planner practitioner and owner of her own financial planning business, helping individuals and families reach their financial goals. She also served on the board of the Financial Planning Association of the East Bay for 11 years.

After she was appointed as a Dublin Unified School District trustee in 2013, Megan was elected to her first full term in 2014 with a successful bid for re-election in 2018. As a school board member, she serves on the wellness committee, budget committee, and grading committee, while also participating in programming for the Tri-Valley Special Education Local Plan Area and Tri-Valley Regional Occupational Program.

Through all of this, Megan has remained an active member of the Dublin community. Since 2014 she has been an active member of the Rotary Club of Dublin, holding various leadership positions. She also serves as a deacon and finance elder at John Knox Church, served on the board of Joy Preschool and Daycare for five years, and was the committee chair of Cub Scouts Pack 930.

I thank Megan for lending her diligence and leadership to the Dublin Unified School District Board for nearly a decade. I join the Tri-Valley community in celebrating her numerous accomplishments and wish her and her loving husband, Gordon, and two children, Maribel and Gabe, all the best as they decide what challenges to take on next.

HONORING JOHNNY C. TAYLOR, JR.

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2022

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Johnny C. Taylor, Jr. for the grand opening of the Johnny Taylor Family UTrailblazers Experience.

The UTrailblazers Experience is a multimedia tribute recognizing and commemorating

Black students, living and deceased, who graduated from the University of Miami during the 1960s and 1970s, as well as spotlights the contributions of present and future black students. In 1961, the first trailblazers set foot on campus when the University of Miami admitted its first black students three and a half decades after the university first opened its doors. The inaugural forty student class dismantled many barriers and paved the way for generations to come.

The Johnny Taylor Family UTrailblazers Experience was born from an initiative by the Black Alumni Society, who shined a light on the many struggles the first Black students endured. At the time, the information was only available in the archives of the University of Miami Libraries. Johnny C. Taylor, Jr. is a University of Miami alumnus and member of the University of Miami Board of Trustees. Mr. Taylor has gifted UTrailblazers Experience as a permanent exhibit to celebrate and highlight the accomplishments of students and future generations of students who make a difference in the areas of diversity and inclusion.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring Johnny C. Taylor, Jr. for his contribution to the University of Miami community and his commitment to preserving the history of past students and honoring the potential of future generations of Black students.

HONORING STAFF SERGEANT E-QUANTAY MASON UPON RECEIVING THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2022

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend Staff Sergeant E-Quantay Mason of the 60th Air Mobility Wing upon receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross for his service, dedication, and sacrifice during Operation Allies Refuge. He exemplifies the best of America, and his tireless efforts guarantee the safety of all those who call America home.

Last year, the servicemembers of the 60th Air Mobility Wing met a challenge of colossal scale when they played a pivotal role in completing the drawdown of forces from Afghanistan. This command was critical in the largest noncombatant evacuation operation in known history, Operation Allies Refuge, ultimately saving over 124,000 lives. The 60th Air Mobility Wing directly supported the evacuation of nearly 13,000 Afghans while simultaneously managing the security and operations at Hamid Karzai International Airport. I have listened to countless stories from this group of brave men and women that exemplify the character, leadership, and bravery that is cultivated at Travis Air Force Base.

Service records only scratch the surface of the courageous actions performed by the 60th Air Mobility Wing. They put their hearts and lives on the line to save so many. These valiant servicemembers like Staff Sergeant E-Quantay Mason epitomize the values of courage and patriotism.

On behalf of a grateful country and all the constituents of California's Third Congressional District, I would like to congratulate

Staff Sergeant E-Quantay Mason of the 60th Air Mobility Wing for receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross and extend my sincere gratitude for his sacrifice and contributions to the defense of this great country.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
CARL CANNON

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2022

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Carl Cannon for his two decades of public service with the Peoria Park District and his continued efforts with ELITE Community Outreach. Carl founded ELITE Community Outreach in 2005 with the goal of keeping local kids out of the criminal justice system. Since that time, ELITE Community Outreach has mentored more than 1,600 children and expanded services including elementary, job training, and mentoring programs.

Carl is known throughout central Illinois as one of Peoria's tremendous mentors and educators. Under his leadership, ELITE programs have resulted in a 63 percent reduction in disciplinary referrals and a 67 percent improvement in GPA among students in the ELITE program. The Re-entry program is responsible for providing job skills to more than 120+ previously incarcerated individuals.

I am grateful for Carl's dedication to the Peoria community and his tireless efforts towards improving the lives of students and children across the city. The lessons taught by Carl will continue to spread hope, empowerment, and positivity in the Peoria community. I appreciate our friendship and, I wish Carl continued success in all his future endeavors.

HONORING CLARICE COOPER

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2022

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today as a descendant of Bahamians, to recognize Clarice Cooper for her contribution to the City of Miami's designation of the Little Bahamas of Coconut Grove on July 19, 2022.

Since the 19th century, Bahamians played an integral role in the founding of the City of Miami, representing one-third of the registered signatories on the July 28, 1896, date of the city's incorporation. Much like Miami's original Bahamian signatories, Clarice Cooper's commitment to preserving the rich Bahamian culture and history of Miami has helped to ensure the designation of the Little Bahamas of Coconut Grove.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring Clarice Cooper for her contributions to the community and her role in the historic designation of the Little Bahamas of Coconut Grove.

RECOGNIZING DIANA MEREDITH
FOR HER SERVICE TO THE
HOUSE BUDGET COMMITTEE

HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2022

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Diana Meredith, staff director of the House Budget Committee. Diana is retiring after more than 25 years of dedicated service to Congress and the Executive branch, including 20 years on the House Budget Committee.

A native of Washington state, Diana worked as a newspaper reporter in Seattle and the Napa Valley for several years. In 1997, she came to Washington, D.C. to work for the Senate Budget Committee, led at the time by U.S. Senator Edmund Muskie of Maine. In 1998, Diana moved to the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to serve as a program examiner for Social Security and fiscal issues, analyzing Social Security reform proposals and negotiating and resolving policy disagreements among agencies and White House offices.

After five years at OMB, Diana joined the Democratic Staff of the House Budget Committee in 2003, under Rep. John Spratt, Jr. of South Carolina. Diana went on to serve as a budget analyst on the House Budget Committee for 14 years. She advised House leadership and committees on budget-related matters—developing recommendations, messaging guidance, and overall strategy for key Congressional legislative deliberations. Diana played a particularly important role in the development and passage of the historic Affordable Care Act (ACA) and in pushing back against harmful proposals to restructure Medicare and other crucial social programs.

In 2017, Diana became Deputy Staff Director of the House Budget Committee, where she assisted in the negotiation and passage of a number of highly consequential pieces of legislation. Her legacy includes the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2019, which ended the threat of annual discretionary sequesters from the Budget Control Act, the 2021 concurrent budget resolution that paved the way for the American Rescue Plan, and the historic American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, which helped our nation rapidly recover from the COVID pandemic, with record-breaking job creation and broad-based economic growth.

Diana became Budget Staff Director in 2021, an enormously consequential year for President Biden, Congressional Democrats, and the American people. Diana led the Committee in enacting the framework for what would become the Inflation Reduction Act—landmark reconciliation legislation that has lowered the cost of prescription drugs for millions of seniors, expanded health insurance subsidies to help families access affordable, high-quality care, and provided the largest investment in U.S. history to combat climate.

Diana is a deeply caring public servant. She is uniquely adept at navigating complex budgetary issues and negotiations, while never losing sight of the reason we do this work: to help the American people. And Diana never missed an opportunity to reflect on and celebrate her staff's victories, big or small. The Budget Committee and our entire country has

benefited from Diana's expertise, her extensive knowledge of the budget process, her mentorship of staff, and her unwavering dedication to America's working families.

I want to thank Diana for her advice, dedication, and leadership. I wish her all the best in her much deserved retirement.

RECOGNIZING LAPEER COUNTY
SEARCH AND RESCUE

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2022

Mrs. McCLAIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lapeer County Search and Rescue, a team of dedicated and extensively trained volunteers.

Lapeer County Search and Rescue, known as LCSAR is a non-profit sub-division of the Lapeer County Sheriff's Department. The group of dedicated and highly skilled volunteers train and plan year-round to execute searches to locate lost or missing persons, both in urban and wilderness environments. The division uses a wide variety of technical skills to meet the needs of each unique and time critical scenario. The team has expertise in ground searchers, mounted resources, trackers, ATV's, radio communications, and certified K9 teams.

This team of selfless volunteers is a beacon of community strength. They give families hope in the toughest times, and answers when they are needed most. I commend the Lapeer County Search and Rescue Team for their heroism and constant preparation to keep our community safe.

HONORING DJAINA DERVIL

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 12, 2022

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Djaina Dervil on her accomplishments and to congratulate her on receiving the United States Department of State Gilman Scholarship.

Djaina "Nina" Dervil is a rising senior at Florida State University pursuing a major in Behavioral Neuroscience and a minor in Chemistry. She was born and raised North Miami Beach, where she still calls home.

Her Gilman Scholarship enabled her to develop her grant-writing abilities and expand her STEM exploration. She worked with Seed Science on grant writing in the areas of environmental awareness and STEM education. Using the Gilman Scholarship, Djaina travelled and conducted research within the United States. She credits the Gilman Scholarship with contributing to her drive to conduct further research and to continue in academia.

She wants to acknowledge her mother, Sonnie Noel Dervil, and her father, Jules Dervil, for their sacrifices and efforts to fuel her education. She also wants to thank her brothers, Jodson Noel and Nikson Noel, for their support, assistance, and guidance. It's because of her family and support system that she was able to excel and secure this scholarship.