

over 650 branches, managing over \$50 billion in assets and employing over 13,000 people.

While his financial accomplishments have been quite significant, his commitment to building a better Buffalo region has been equally profound. Last year Mr. Wilmers and his wife, Elizabeth, were recognized by the United Way of Buffalo & Erie County for corporate and personal donations to a number of local charities including: the Buffalo Zoo, the Darwin Martin House, Shea's Performing Arts Center, the Albright-Knox Art Gallery and the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra.

Mr. Wilmers has also taken a special interest in building a better future for Buffalo children through promoting education. This focus has involved contributing to enhancements at Buffalo Public School No. 68—Westminster Community Charter School and helping sponsor the search for a new superintendent for the Buffalo Public School System.

Furthermore, Mr. Wilmers has lent his financial skills to the Buffalo Fiscal Stability Board, the Buffalo Niagara Partnership, and a business leaders association called the "Group of 18."

While Mr. Wilmers will continue to be involved professionally at M&T Bank, after over two decades of success, he has decided to relinquish his position as President and CEO of the Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and gratitude I stand here today to recognize Robert Wilmers, a man who has dedicated his life to economic, community and social development. On behalf of the residents of Buffalo and Western New York, we are grateful for your enduring commitment to this area and wish you health and happiness in your new semi-retirement role.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT
FINANCING, AND RELATED PRO-
GRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT,
2006

SPEECH OF

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 28, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House in the State of the Union and under consideration the bill (H.R. 3057) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes:

Mr. STARK. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the Foreign Operations Appropriations Act for FY 2006.

The United States should be the world's leading peace broker rather than its largest arms dealer. Unfortunately, about one-quarter, or about \$5 billion, of the funding for this foreign operations appropriations bill is direct military aid and more than \$2.5 billion are "Economic Support Funds," which are often used for security operations. Supplying so many weapons to other nations does more to promote war than it does to enable peace.

To be fair, there are positive provisions in this bill. For example, it increases funding for family planning programs and the United Nations Population Fund, UNFPA. Regrettably, this good news is tarnished by another provi-

sion in the bill that gives President Bush the power to unilaterally withhold funding from the UNFPA initiative. For several years, President Bush has withheld these funds claiming that UNFPA plays a role in the coercive abortion practices of the Chinese.

Despite that rhetoric, UNFPA does not provide funding for abortions or abortion services. It works to prevent the need for abortions by educating women in other countries on the many advantages to services such as contraception and disease prevention. UNFPA is the largest internationally funded source of population assistance to developing countries. For over three decades, the UNFPA has provided billions of dollars of assistance to more than 150 countries for voluntary family planning and maternal and child health care.

I am also disappointed that the bill fails to fund the Global Environmental Facility, GEF. The GEF is the largest single funding source for projects to improve our global environment.

I also oppose provisions in this bill that have removed all conditionality on U.S. military assistance to Indonesia and Guatemala. Indonesia continues to abuse the human rights of its people and Guatemala has violated numerous agreements stipulated in its domestic peace accords.

What message is this Republican Congress sending the world? On the one hand, President Bush sends Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice on a tour of the Middle East touting democracy. On the other hand, this Republican Congress is allowing brutal regimes to get military aid without any restrictions.

I cannot vote for this legislation. The large amount of military aid and the lack of commitment to promoting democracy and international family planning initiatives force me to vote against it. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting against this ill-conceived legislation.

HONORING THE FIRST GRAD-
UATING CLASS FROM THE CAM-
DEN ACADEMY CHARTER HIGH
SCHOOL

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 29, 2005

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the first graduating class of the Camden Academy Charter High School. The high school grew out of Camden's Promise Charter School, which opened its doors in September of 1998. From the beginning, Camden Academy Charter School has provided a safe environment for the children of Camden. The students here are not just presented with a foundation in academics, but also discover how their education translates into opportunities outside the classroom. The students participate in summer immersion, job shadowing, and even internships with local companies.

These students have truly earned their diplomas. I commend them for their dedication and hard work, and hope that their education will not end here. Education is a lifelong goal, one that serves to the betterment of the individual, and of society. I ask them to read the newspaper; read a novel; write poetry; study current events; talk to friends and family about

the issues of the day. Their graduation today is a starting point from which they can grow and learn, and I wish these students all the best in their future endeavors.

The following are the 2005 graduates from the Camden Academy Charter High School:

Aaron Adams, Kristen Alpheus, Devon Alston, Jamellah Best, Diana Borges, Tyesha Brantley, Domonic Busbee, Troy Butler, Edwin Caraballo, TieQuann Carver, Jesse Coltrane, Alexis Cooper, Michael Cropper, Bianca Cox, Juan Cruz, Aramis Cruz, Letitia Curry, Khalil Davis, Julissa DeCasanova, Yesenia DeCasanova, Christopher Dickerson, Marilyn Ferguson, Rashon Fisher, Sheila Gabriel, and Tajah Gamble.

Abraham Gonzalez, Adrian Graham, DeV Vaughn Hailey, LaToya Hairston, Marcus Harris, Theresa Holmes, Michael Hopkins, William Hughes III, Hope Ibenche, Nashid Ibn-El, Daniel Irizarry, Brittany Johnson, Damian Johnson, Nigel Jones, Erving Jones, Kris Keaton, Monique Kinard, Keyana Kirkland, Antonia Maldonado, Jorge Maldonado, KiaMarae Mathes, Steven McDonald, Jessica Medina, Jevon Miles, and Tabron Miles.

Naemah Mitchell-El, Rafael Montanez, Ebony Mosley, Chanell Moyer, Shardaewood, Saunier O'Neill, Jeremy Ortiz, Charles Parrish, India Powe, Dianna Pujols, Veda Quann, Quameer Reddick-Parker, April Reid-Bey, Christopher Rivera, Daniella Rivera, Jeremy Robinson, Samuel Rodriguez, LaTisha Rodriguez, Cheryl Ross, Kabria Satterwhite, Devin Seamon, Phillip Smalls, Dareese Smith, Akacia Spearman, and Yaniece Spencer.

Vaughn Spicer, Genice Steward, Troy Still, Steven Taylor Jr., Mercy Torres, Gina Torres, Jemaine Underdue, Fashionette Underdue, Alexander Vargas, Jha-Nai Wagner, Tangier Washington, Brittney Webb, Rasheen Webb, Gabrielle Williams, Chanteera Wilson, Lateema Yellock, and Tiffany Young.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR,
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill, (H.R. 3010) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes:

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in recognition of House Amendment 343 to House Resolution 3010, to restore full funding to the Corporation of Public Broadcasting.

The passage of this amendment preserves public broadcasting, a longstanding American tradition. This amendment enables the Corporation of Public Broadcasting to continue providing countless benefits to our society, including unbiased and nonpartisan information and news, educational and developmental programming and services, and arts and entertainment to the American public.