

Calorie March" from Florida to Boston in which took place in 2005.

Working with opera star Andrea Delgadice, Todd also founded the Todd G. Patkin Opportunity Performing Art Center. It brings the highest quality vocal, dance and acting instruction to its students, many of whom are from the less-advantage areas of Brockton, Massachusetts, and are receiving full scholarships because of their economic need.

Todd recently made a substantial contribution to the Boston Medical Center for its Todd and Yadira Patkin Sickle Cell Anemia Clinic. He has also provided significant financial support to the Boston chapter of the Anti-Defamation League, where he and Andrew Tarsy will be managing a new initiative to combat bigotry and intolerance in greater Boston.

Todd has had a positive impact internationally as well, Mr. Speaker. He supports two charities in the State of Israel—the Jewish National Fund, which is chaired by Ronald Lauder, and the Yemin Orde Youth Village headed by Chaim Peri. The village is perhaps the most advanced orphanage in Israel and the world. It focuses on helping children, who frequently have been orphaned under devastating circumstances, to become happy and productive members of society. Today over two-thirds of the 300 children in the village are Jews of Ethiopian descent.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM KOLBE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 22, 2005

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, on December 16, 17, and 18, 2005, I missed the following votes due to previous commitments in my Congressional district:

S. 1932, On Motion to Instruct Conferees, Budget Reconciliation, 2006 (#652). Had I been present I would have voted "nay."

H.R. 4437, On Passage of the Border Protection, Antiterrorism, and Illegal Immigration Control Act (#661). Had I been present I would have voted "nay."

H. RES. 623, On Agreeing to the Resolution providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules (#663). Had I been present I would have voted "aye."

H.R. 2520, Suspend the Rules and Agree to the Senate Amendment, Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Act (#664). Had I been present I would have voted "aye."

H.R. 1815, On Agreeing to the Conference Report, National Defense Authorization Act, FY 06 (#665). Had I been present I would have voted "aye."

H. RES. 639, On Agreeing to the Resolution waiving points of order against the conference report on H.R. 2863, Department of Defense Appropriations, FY 2006 (#666). Had I been present I would have voted "aye."

H.R. 2863, On the motion to recommit conference report with instructions for the appropriations bill for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes (#668). Had I been present I would have voted "nay."

H.R. 2863, On Agreeing to the Conference Report for the appropriations bill for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes

(#669). Had I been present I would have voted "aye."

S. 1932, On Agreeing to the Conference Report for Budget Reconciliation, 2006 (#670). Had I been present I would have voted "aye."

H.R. 2863

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 22, 2005

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, now that the most egregious provision has been stripped out the Defense Appropriations bill, I rise to offer my support for this important legislation.

When the House first voted on this measure early Monday morning on December 19, I opposed this bill because, among other reasons, it included a provision to permit oil and gas drilling in ANWR. The Arctic Refuge is one of the last, wild, untouched places left in the United States—with an abundance and variety of wildlife. Not only was I concerned about the environmental impact of opening up ANWR to drilling and exploration, but I was also opposed to the inclusion of this unrelated provision in a defense bill. I am glad that the ANWR provision has been stripped from this bill.

The remaining bill will do a great deal to support our troops. It appropriates a total of \$453.5 billion for defense programs, including \$50 billion in emergency spending for military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. I am pleased that it contains language, authored by Senator JOHN MCCAIN that bars any U.S. personnel, including civilians, from engaging in "cruel, inhumane, or degrading" treatment of detainees. I am particularly pleased it includes funds for an average 3.1 percent pay increase for the men and women in our armed forces. H.R. 2863 also includes funding for certain special pay and bonuses for reserve personnel.

With that said, and while I now support this bill in its final form, I am concerned about a number of remaining provisions in the bill. Among other things, H.R. 2863 includes a provision to provide virtually unlimited liability protection to the drug industry, while providing illusory and unfunded compensation to any potential victims. We must be prepared in case of a flu pandemic, including ensuring our first responders are ready. Yet, the Republican bill uses the threat of a flu pandemic as an excuse to push the Administration's agenda of giving unwarranted and broad liability protection to the drug industry for a broad array of products.

I am also concerned about the bill's inclusion of funding for the national missile defense (NMD) system. The bill before us includes \$7.8 billion for this system. While we should always stand alert with a strong national defense, the NMD system is scientifically unproven, fiscally irresponsible, and grossly inaccurate. There are better ways to improve our defense.

Last, I share many of my colleagues concerns over this bill's provision to cut all non-emergency discretionary spending, except for VA programs, by 1 percent. As a result, K-12 education will see a cut of \$1 billion this year; LIHEAP, which helps many people heat their homes, will be cut by \$21 million; and Local

Law Enforcement Block grants, which goes to help our first responders, will be cut by \$315 million. While I agree that we must be fiscally responsible, we cannot do so at the expense of vital social and federal programs that assist our communities.

Mr. Speaker, I support our troops, and I believe in a robust defense. But we cannot use this legislation to hold our troops politically hostage to unwise policies. I am pleased that ANWR has been stripped out of this bill, and I strongly support its passage now that it has been removed.

H.R. 2863—DOD APPROPRIATIONS
CONFERENCE REPORT

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 22, 2005

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I applaud the removal of a provision from the Department of Defense Appropriation bill that would have allowed drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR). This pristine wilderness area deserves to be protected, and furthermore, a Defense Appropriations bill was an entirely inappropriate vehicle to use to attempt to approve drilling in ANWR. For those and other reasons, I opposed passage of H.R. 2863 on December 19, 2005.

I am greatly pleased, however, that the Senate rejected the inclusion of the ANWR language, and removed the rider from this important appropriations bill. I still have grave concerns over several provisions still included in H.R. 2863, however, when it is passed into law our brave soldiers will get the resources they need to do the job overseas and return home safely as quickly as possible.

THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
APPROPRIATIONS CONFERENCE
REPORT

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 22, 2005

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, on December 19, 2005, I voted against the Department of Defense Appropriations Conference Report as it was considered by the House of Representatives. While I voted for the Defense Authorization Act and normally would support a Defense Appropriations bill—especially with our troops in harm's way—this year I regrettably had to vote against the legislation.

I did so largely because the Republican majority inserted a provision allowing oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR). This controversial measure was repeatedly rejected through the democratic process, but the Republican leadership preferred to hold the Defense Appropriations bill—and our troops in the field—hostage to the effort to drill in this pristine wildlife refuge. Moreover this legislation contained a 1 percent across the board cut in non-defense discretionary spending.

Mr. Speaker, America cannot drill its way to independence from foreign oil. Tapping ANWR would produce barely a drop in the bucket of the amount of oil we consume in this Nation.

Even if we started drilling in ANWR today, we would not see any of that oil until 2012.

Rather than drilling in the Arctic wilderness and extending our reliance on oil, we must increase fuel efficiency, diversify our sources of energy, and promote clean alternatives. We need to invest and focus on ways to reduce our consumption of oil. This is why Congressman JACK KINGSTON (R-NY) and I have introduced The Fuel Choices for American Security Act, which sets meaningful and achievable goals, all of which can be accomplished using new technologies that are already proven, effective and efficient.

I, therefore, am very pleased to learn that the Senate has struck the ANWR drilling provision from the Defense Appropriations Conference Report. It is my understanding that this bill will now pass the House by unanimous consent, and will be sent to the President for signature.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2863,
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AP-
PROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 18, 2005

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, by including the legislative provision to drill and destroy the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) in this defense appropriation conference report (H.R. 2863), the Republican majority has demonstrated their on-going abuse of power, their shameless collusion with the oil industry and a distasteful willingness to exploit the needs of U.S. troops at war in Iraq and Afghanistan in order to achieve their policy desires, regardless of the cost. This is a cynical strategy to pass a provision designed for the oil industry, a provision that has already been rejected by this House earlier this year. The fact that the Republican majority is using our brave men and women serving in the armed forces as political cover to ensure that the provision allowing for oil drilling in ANWR is passed by this House shows the majority's desperation, their deception and their willingness to undermine our democratic process.

The intended purpose of this bill is to provide the resource for the defense of our nation. It is to ensure the men and women serving in the armed forces have the training, the protective gear, the equipment and all of the necessary support to execute their missions in Iraq, Afghanistan, Korea, Europe and here at home. The men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces comprise the greatest fighting force the world has ever known and they not only keep the citizens of the U.S. safe from a world filled with very real threats, they are serving the cause of peace and security around the world. I commend our troops and our military leadership for their service and sacrifice, as well as the dedication of their families.

Of the more than \$450 billion appropriated in this bill, much of the defense related expenditures are necessary for national security. I strongly support the 3.1 percent pay raise for military personnel. The allocation of more than \$7 billion for the ballistic-missile defense sys-

tem continues to be a waste for tax dollars since the program has failed many of its critical tests and by all accounts is a boondoggle.

The language in the bill that bans torture by all U.S. personnel, including civilian defense and intelligence personnel, sets the appropriate standard by which the U.S. should conduct itself—even in a war against terrorism. Senator JOHN MCCAIN should be commended for his perseverance and determination not to yield to President Bush and Vice President CHENEY's demands that torture be permitted under certain circumstances. Torture is an inhumane practice that is the antithesis of America's values and moral obligations as a defender of international human rights.

In addition to allowing drilling for oil in ANWR, this bill has a number of nondefense provisions that are objectionable. The across-the-board cut included in H.R. 2863 will total an additional \$8 billion in cuts to services critical to our families. This will result in another \$28 million cut to No Child Left Behind, bringing the total cut this year to \$1 billion. This is in addition to the \$40 billion this law has been under-funded by the Republicans since its passage.

Also included in this bill are funds to prepare for a possible Avian Flu pandemic. While I support providing funding for this work, the Republicans have included a provision providing unlimited liability protection to the pharmaceutical industry. Instead of having an honest debate about the needs of health care workers, public health systems and local governments in the case of a pandemic, Republicans have chosen only to worry about another of their strong allies—the drug companies.

H.R. 2863 also claims to provide new funding for Katrina relief which I support. However, this bill includes only \$5 billion—not nearly enough to allow families to begin to rebuild their lives and their community. And it relies on a complicated scheme of possible revenues from drilling in ANWR and sales of spectrum to fund relief. In addition, Republicans used this opportunity to push through a divisive school voucher plan that was defeated by the Education and Workforce Committee. This plan will allow \$645 million in taxpayer schools to go to private and religious schools that do not have to adhere to the accountability requirements of public schools.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support our troops. Overall, this bill however, is an example of the shameless and abusive tactics used over and over again by this Republican party to force their special interest agenda on the American people. It shows again that the Majority does not represent the values of American families, but rather values their corporate contributors. I urge my colleagues to reject this outrageous bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 22, 2005

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, due to the death of a family member, I was not present for rollcalls 665 through 671 on Sunday, December 18 and Monday, December 19. Had I been present, I would have voted

“nay” on rollcalls 666, 669, 670 and “yea” on rollcalls 665, 667, 668, and 671.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SPC RICHARD JUNIOR DE GRACIA NAPUTI

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 22, 2005

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of one of Guam's sons, SPC Richard Junior De Gracia Naputi, 24, U.S. Army, of Talofofo, Guam. Sadly, on December 20, 2005, our nation lost SPC Naputi. SPC Naputi was killed in action while serving in Taji, Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Born and raised in Guam, he left the only home he knew to serve and defend his country. Assigned to the 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division in Fort Benning, Georgia, SPC Naputi embodied the proud history and traditions of his unit whose motto was “Can Do” and whose lineage traces back to the Civil War.

My thoughts and prayers are with the Naputi family during this time of loss. I join his parents, Richard and Naputi, his wife Brienne, and all of Richard's extended family and friends, in mourning the loss of Richard and in honoring the dignity of his life. While the loss of SPC Naputi is painful for our entire island and our nation, he now joins that solemn fraternity of heroes who have put their country before themselves and made the greatest sacrifice. Heeding the Christmas message of “Peace on earth,” Richard's loss leads us to reflect upon the sacrifices made by the men and women who shoulder the responsibility of protecting our liberties and our freedoms. To these men and women, we owe a debt of gratitude that is simply unpayable.

During this difficult time, the people of Guam and I are keeping the Naputi family in our thoughts and prayers. I also extend my prayers to the many men and women continuing to serve around the world in the cause of freedom. God bless the Naputi family, God bless our men and women in uniform and God bless America.

ON THE RETIREMENT OF THOMAS F. MCHUGH

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 22, 2005

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 37 years of public service Mr. Thomas F. McHugh has devoted to the City of Rochester. His hard work and commitment to the city's development will set an example for current and future public servants, and Rochester is grateful for all that Mr. McHugh has contributed.

Mr. McHugh grew up in Ancram, Massachusetts. His father was in the insurance business and his mother was a teacher. It was from them that he learned the importance of a strong work ethic and a responsibility to community. He carried these lessons with him as studied at University of Syracuse and moved to Rochester upon his graduation.