

During his military career he earned two Bronze Stars, one Meritorious Service Medal and four Army Commendation Medals and served in Korea, Germany and Vietnam. Upon retiring from the Army, Sonny went back to school and received his bachelor of science degree in criminal justice from the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

He is the recipient of numerous awards for his service to the veterans and the community. In 1988 he was selected for the Fourth Congressional District Distinguished Citizen Award and was the Walker County State Employee of the Year for 1983, 1984 and 1985. He was also twice selected by the American Legion as the Veterans Service Officer of the Year.

Madam Speaker, it is a great privilege for me to honor Lucious Carroll Richardson for his many years of dedicated service to our Nation's veterans. He has had an enduring impact on his country, community, friends and family. He is a man of great dignity and character who takes pride in the accomplishments of those he has helped over the years. It is clear that he has been a friend and advocate to the veterans of Walker County and the entire surrounding area. Madam Speaker, no doubt Sonny will be greatly missed in his position with the Department of Veterans Affairs. However, I know that Sonny will still remain a friend to those who have served their country. Sonny is an inspiring role model for all of us and I join his friends, family and colleagues in wishing him God's richest blessings in his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO THE COPPELL HIGH SCHOOL LARIETTES DRILL TEAM

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Coppell High School Lariettes Drill Team for earning the National Championship at the Contest of Champions in Orlando's Walt Disney World of Sports complex on March 3-5, 2007. This is the second National Championship in 4 years for the Coppell Lariettes.

The Lariettes competed against 50 schools from across the Nation and took first-place honors in all categories they competed in to earn the National Championship award.

Each of the 69 Lariettes worked tirelessly to perfect their intricate routines. Dedication, hard work and discipline were necessary for the dancers to achieve the standard of excellence required for a first-place finish.

Besides dancing, the Coppell Lariettes achieve high marks academically in addition to other disciplines such as singing, acting, video production, art, journalism and sports.

I would like to congratulate the Lariette director, Julie Jones on her exceptional work with this group of dancers and The Lariette Service Organization for organizing fund raising and team events.

Again, I offer my congratulations to the Coppell High School Lariettes Drill Team for an outstanding achievement.

EQUIPMENT FOR OUR MILITARY

HON. NANCY E. BOYDA

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas. Madam Speaker, thanks to long contributions of our soldiers and our veterans, America has amassed the most powerful military in the history of mankind. It is so powerful that we can almost imagine its resources are infinite. But they are not. They are limited, and due to the ever-expanding, ever-deteriorating war in Iraq, they are stretched dangerously thin. Our soldiers and their families will never complain, but that is why we must speak for them. We must ask—no, demand—that they have the equipment, training and support they need to succeed. And today, they do not.

Since the Iraq war began in 2003, the Army has lost nearly 2,000 wheeled vehicles and more than 100 armored vehicles. Almost half of the U.S. Army's entire supply of ground equipment is now deployed in the Middle East. The constant demands of combat and the treacherous terrain are wearing out equipment at up to nine times the usual rate.

America's military is overburdened, and now our nation must seriously discuss how best to deploy our depleted forces against the dangers of our day. In this age when we face so many perils, from sinister terrorists to an unstable North Korea to a belligerent Iran, do we truly want to devote so many precious resources to an open-ended Iraq war? Or has the time come to, responsibly and conscientiously, hold the Iraqi government responsible for its own stability?

Congress has the duty to demand from President Bush an unambiguous way forward. We should not dictate strategy, but we can and we must require the president to offer a plan to end the Iraq war and rebuild our strategic readiness. Congress and the American people will no longer tolerate an unending war. There must be real progress, sooner rather than later. And if the president and the Iraqi leadership cannot deliver, we must redeploy our troops.

I believe, to the core of my being, that our strategic readiness cannot survive an endless conflict in Iraq. We must make these important decisions based on the reality of the situation, not or where we wish we were. And so, in order to preserve the strength of the American armed forces and hold President Bush accountable, I am supporting the Iraq Accountability Act. I urge my colleagues to do the same. If they refuse to do so, if they cast their ballots for a stay-the-course strategy, then they are telling President Bush that everything is fine in Iraq—that it is OK to stretch our military to the breaking point. And that's just not right.

ACCOUNTABILITY IN CONTRACTING ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H.R. 1362) to reform acquisition practices of the Federal Government:

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Chairman, I would like to bring to the House's attention the correspondence between myself and Chairman WAXMAN. It deals with the jurisdictions of our respective committees.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM,

Washington, DC, March 21, 2007.

Hon. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ, Chairwoman, Committee on Small Business, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRWOMAN VELÁZQUEZ: I am writing to you concerning the jurisdictional interest of the Committee on Small Business in H.R. 1362, the Accountability in Contracting Act.

I recognize that the Committee on Small Business has a valid claim to jurisdiction over Section 102 of the bill, and I appreciate your decision not to request a sequential referral. I recognize that your decision to forgo a sequential referral does not waive, reduce or otherwise affect the jurisdiction of the Committee on Small Business. Furthermore, I will support your request for representatives of the Small Business Committee to be conferees on the provisions over which you have jurisdiction during any House-Senate conference. I am grateful for the accommodation that you have shown the Oversight Committee.

A copy of this letter, as well as your accompanying letter, will be included as part of the Congressional Record during consideration of this bill by the House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

HENRY A. WAXMAN,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS, Washington, DC, March 21, 2007.

Hon. HENRY WAXMAN, Chairman, Oversight and Government Reform Committee, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I write with regard to H.R. 1362, the Accountability in Contracting Act, a bill to reform the acquisition practices of the Federal Government. You introduced it on March 6, 2007, and was considered on the House floor on March 15, 2007 subject to a rule. The bill was referred to the Oversight and Government Reform Committee on the Armed Services Committee.

The bill that was reported to the House included Section 102 that would directly affect contracting programs contained within the Small Business Act—including the program established by Section 8(a) of the Small Business Act (15 USC 637), the HUBZone program (15 USC 657a), and the service-disabled veteran procurement program (15 USC 637f)—that rely on agencies awarding government contracts without competition. These three programs are included within the exceptions to non-competitive procurement procedures contained in 41 USC 253(c) in paragraph (5) which allows contracts to be awarded without competition if they are covered by other statutes.

I wish to make clear that the Small Business Committee does not waive its jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in those sections. My support of the bill was provided with the understanding that you and I agree that the referral and consideration of the bill does not in any way serve as a jurisdictional precedent for our two committees.

The parliamentarian and Speaker's offices have recognized that the Small Business

Committee would have been granted a referral if it was so requested. I appreciate your recognition that Section 102 falls under the jurisdiction of the Small Business Committee. Additionally, I hope in the future you would provide for similar consideration and accommodation when the House Small Business Committee considers legislation that may fall under the jurisdiction of our respective committees.

I will insert this letter in the Congressional Record as part of the debate on H.R. 1362.

Sincerely,

NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ,
Chairwoman, House Committee
on Small Business.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE DISTINGUISHED VETERANS OF AMERICAN LEGION POST 143

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask the attention of the House today to pay tribute to the distinguished veterans of American Legion Post 143 in Dadeville, Alabama.

In January, Post 143 held a special ceremony to honor twenty veterans of World War II and the Korean War. These senior members of Post 143, like all distinguished military veterans of our Nation, offered their service in uniform to a country and world in need. When they returned home, their commitment to serve others and their country remained strong. The Veterans honored included Donald Black, Jim Black, Joseph Davis, Dwight Evers, Lamar Evers, Frank Farrow, Wayne Gilbert, Marvin Greer, Leon Guy, Robert Huff, Herman Kitchens, Joe McKelvey, Horace Moran, Hugh Owen, Roy Pugh, Jimmy Sanford, Paul Valentine, and Millard White, all of whom have continued to serve their community proudly through their work with the American Legion.

I salute all the veterans of Post 143 for their service and patriotism, and for proudly serving the common good throughout their lives.

CRITICIZING NON-DEFENSE SPENDING IN THE EMERGENCY WAR SUPPLEMENTAL

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the supplemental spending bill for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, but I also wish to register some deep reservations I have with the bill. While I applaud the bill for providing for our troops serving bravely in the field, the bill contains \$20 billion for programs and projects not related to funding and equipping our troops. Making sure that our men and women in uniform are well equipped is too important for playing politics, and I am extremely disappointed that these extraneous provisions are included in the bill.

Madam Speaker, many projects funded in the bill have nothing to do with equipping our

troops and nothing to do with fighting the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. In fact, many projects in the bill simply don't belong. However, much of the extra non-defense spending in the bill is for important and vital programs and I find it sad that we have to use this supplemental spending bill to fund them. I say sad, Madam Speaker, because the fact that the bill includes things like \$2.9 billion for Katrina recovery, \$2.6 billion for homeland security, and \$750 million for children's health care is a testament to the dereliction of duty exhibited by the rubber stamp 109th Congress. We have to fund these vital programs in this year's emergency spending bill because our predecessors left Washington last year without passing a budget and without doing their jobs. Madam Speaker, this is a disgrace and I am so pleased that there's now a Democratic Congress to clean up the mess that was left by the Republican Congress on its way out.

In prior years, the Republican controlled Congress was guilty of even more egregious earmarks and runaway spending, such as the now infamous "Bridge to Nowhere" in Alaska. Seeing Congress waste taxpayers dollars on such frivolous projects is one reason why I decided to run for Congress and it is why I have joined the fiscally conservative Blue Dog Coalition.

A major reason that we have all of these extra projects in supplemental spending bills is because President Bush irresponsibly refuses to account for war spending in the regular budget process. This leads to war spending being brought up as so-called "emergency" spending bills, which Congress must pass in order to fund our troops. This fiscal recklessness when dealing with funding for our troops is unique to the Bush administration. The Korean War only had one supplemental spending bill, while the Vietnam War, which lasted eleven years, only had four.

Madam Speaker, I'm not the type of person who points out problems without proposing a solution. The people of the 8th district sent me here to lead, and that is exactly what I intend to do. For this reason, I have introduced H. Res. 97, a bill to provide for Operation Iraqi Freedom cost accountability. My bill, among other things, would require that funding for the war in Iraq go through the regular budgeting process, rather than be funded through an endless series of "emergency" spending bills. In my view, this would eliminate the ability to attach non-defense spending projects to a bill that should be about one thing and one thing only: Providing for our troops.

In closing, Madam Speaker, I do wish to say that there is a great deal to admire in this bill. It provides our troops with the funding they need to do their jobs. It provides for benchmarks for the Iraqis and a timeline for bringing our troops home. And it sends a message to President Bush that he no longer has a rubber stamp Congress that will keep funding this war without questioning him. I only wish we could have done all of this without these extra unrelated projects. Still, it is important that we not let the perfect be the enemy of the good, and it is important to let the president know that it is time to start bringing our troops home.

HONORING LINDA TREXLER

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Linda Trexler, Principal of Neabsco Elementary School, upon being selected as the Prince William County Distinguished Educational Leadership Award winner and being named Prince William County Principal of the Year.

The Washington Post presents annual awards to outstanding educators who "day after day go beyond the challenges of the highly demanding profession to create exceptional educational environments for Washington area students." Principal Trexler certainly fits this definition.

For the past 7 years Principal Trexler has devoted herself to the success of her students at Neabsco Elementary School. Under her leadership the school has become a fully accredited institution, a model of instructional improvement and has twice been named a School of Excellence in the Prince William County Public School system. Additionally, the school boasts a 90.1 percent SOL pass rate in math and a 91.4 percent SOL pass rate in language arts. These awards and statistics show the unique impact that a principal, faculty and student body can achieve when motivated to reach the common goal of academic excellence. It is plain to see that Principal Trexler has been able to lead her school to reach that goal.

Principal Trexler's adoration and devotion to her students has been accepted and returned by the faculty and student body. Upon hearing about these awards, her students organized to write a song and create banners in her honor. This relationship built on respect and love for education has created an atmosphere that deserves celebration and should be replicated throughout the schools of our area and our Nation.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to commend and congratulate Ms. Linda Trexler on her tireless efforts to ensure that the students of Neabsco Elementary School receive the quality education they deserve. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding Principal Trexler for receiving the 2007 Prince William County Distinguished Educational Leadership Award and being named Prince William County Principal of the Year. I wish Principal Trexler, her faculty and her students continued success in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO U.S. ARMY PRIVATE FIRST CLASS JOHN FRANCIS LANDRY, JR.

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

Mr. MEEHAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a true hero, Private First Class John Francis Landry, Jr., who gave his life in service to our country.

Private First Class Landry was a resident of Lowell, a community in my Massachusetts district, and was deployed with the brave men and women serving in our armed forces on