

over 4,000 American lives lost and over 33,000 soldiers wounded. Our U.S. debt increased from \$6.4 trillion in March 2003 to \$10 trillion in the pre-financial crisis months of 2008, and the war in Iraq is directly responsible for at least a quarter of that sum. While there are many contrasting perspectives on U.S. involvement in Iraq, all can agree that having established a clear and informed plan for the country's occupation and stabilization prior to the invasion would have helped to decrease the loss of life, injuries as well as the wasteful use of resources.

This legislation will require the President to submit a post-deployment strategy to Congress not later than 48 hours after introducing our military into combat operations. This plan will articulate the interests of the United States, define the goals and objectives of the operation, and lay out a strategy for success.

Establishing a clear and informed plan for a country's occupation prior to introducing Armed Forces will help better allocate resources, and decrease the loss of life and the cost of conflicts. It is crucial to have the tools and resources in place to ensure the stabilization of conflict areas, and the safe return of our troops. It is both unacceptable and irresponsible to send our loved ones to war without a long-term plan of action.

Mr. Speaker, as instability escalates in the Middle East and with U.S. military operations in Libya underway, the need for a clear post-deployment strategy is greater than ever. We owe our soldiers, their families, and the taxpayers clear justification for sending our Armed Forces into combat. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, on June 13, 2011, I missed the following rollcall votes because I was unavoidably detained out of town: rollcall vote No. 413—on agreeing to the LaTourette amendment; rollcall vote No. 414—on agreeing to the Amash amendment; rollcall vote No. 415—on agreeing to the Sherman amendment; and rollcall vote No. 416—on retaining Title II (Department of Veterans Affairs). All of these rollcall votes were on amendments to H.R. 2055, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Act.

If present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall Nos. 413 and 416, and "nay" on rollcall Nos. 414 and 415.

MR. SANTOS CRESPO

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Santos Crespo.

Santos Crespo, a Bronx native, started in the labor movement in 1975 when he and other co-workers helped to organize the Substance Abuse Counselors in the New York

City Board of Education. He would be elected shop steward in his district after they became members of the New York City Board of Education Employees Local 372, District Council 37, AFSCME, and served for over 10 years as its Executive Vice President.

Today, he is presently the President of the largest municipal employees union in New York City, District Council 37, AFSCME, and the President of the largest local union within DC 37, representing over 26,000 employees within the New York City Department of Education, Local 372.

Santos is also a founding member and currently the chairperson of the DC 37 Latino Heritage Committee, served for 6 years as President of the New York City Chapter of the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA), a member of the New York City Hispanic Labor Committee and he also serves on LCLAA National Executive Board. He is a member of the New York City Chapter of Coalition of Black Trade Unionist (CBTU) and a former Teaching Fellow for the Organizing Institute of the AFL-CIO. Santos has received numerous awards; Humanitarian Assistance Award for his assistance during the recovery efforts at the World Trade Center tragedy, The New York Daily News Viva New York as a 2004 Latino Influential, The New York Dominican Officers Organization for Outstanding Service in the Labor Movement and the New York LCLAA Labor Award, The New York Hispanic Labor Committee Friamberra Labor Award and The New York State Puerto Rican/Hispanic Legislative Task Force *Somo El Futuro* Labor Award, and the 111th Congress paid tribute to his leadership and commitment in the labor community by entering his accomplishments into the records of the House.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating Mr. Crespo' extraordinary achievements

HONORING COLONEL FRANK K. BROOKS' 30 YEARS OF SERVICE IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to Colonel Frank K. Brooks for his 30 years of exceptional service and dedication to the United States Air Force. He retired from active duty on May 31, 2011.

Colonel Brooks was born in New Roads, Louisiana. He was commissioned as a second Lieutenant in the Air Force in 1981, upon his graduation from the United States Air Force Academy. In 1982, he completed his Master of Science in Information Systems at Washington University in St. Louis, MO. Following graduate school, his operational assignments included duties as a Computer Program Design Engineer at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois and as the Chief of the Data Systems Branch for the Secretary of the Air Force Special Projects Office.

Over the past two years, Colonel Brooks has served as the Chief Information Officer of Joint Force Headquarters National Capital Region, United States Northern Command,

where he was responsible for the coordination of interoperable emergency communications with defense mission partners in the National Capital Region. His efforts have provided for robust and reliable command and control systems to enable defense support to civil authorities. He has integrated cyberspace operations and planning into the JFHQ-NCR mission, making it one of the first domestic commands to integrate full-spectrum information operations in the Air Force. His thoughtful management, aggressive integration of emerging technologies, and active engagement with interagency partners has made the National Capital Region safer and better prepared to respond to any emergency. His adherence to the highest standards of professional conduct is a credit to all that wear the uniform of the United States Air Force.

Prior to his current assignment, Colonel Brooks served as the Deputy Chief, United States Military Training Mission, Riyadh, Royal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. On behalf of the Department of the Air Force, he managed the exchange of critical military information systems and communications technologies with the military forces of Saudi Arabia.

Colonel Brooks has served in a variety of staff and leadership positions both stateside and overseas. He has served in a variety of operational and staff positions in the communications and space career fields, including one group command, five squadron commands, Secretary of Defense Fellowship (Netscape/AOL), Education with Industry (Boeing), Air Force Communications Agency, National Reconnaissance Office, the Joint Staff and special operations, as well as director of communications and information systems for two major commands.

I would like to give my sincere thanks to Frank, his wife Penelope, and their daughters Lauren and Nicole for their unwavering support of our country and the freedom we hold so dear. We congratulate Colonel Brooks on the completion of an exemplary active-duty career and wish him well in the next phase of his life.

TRIBUTE TO NATIONAL VOICES FOR EQUALITY EDUCATION AND ENLIGHTENMENT

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 22, 2011

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the extraordinary efforts of National Voices for Equality Education and Enlightenment (NVEEE) in providing support services to youth and families affected by bullying, violence, and suicide through preventative education and communication.

Jowharah Sanders, founder of National Voices for Equality Education and Enlightenment; says, "Bullying is not just an action; it is inaction as well". I agree wholeheartedly. Fortunately, Ms. Sanders understands that we will have to work together from the ground up to defeat bullying at every level.

Sanders, a drum major for the voiceless and victimized, founded NVEEE in October 2009. Driven by a personal mission, Sanders sought to help those who have been affected by bullying, violence, victimization, and abuse in