

Johnstown, Mr. Rolish put his financial expertise to good use, collaborating with Fannie Mae to help a number of individuals and small businesses rebuild after the devastating Johnstown flood of 1977. He also served as the CEO of the non-profit NORCAM, helping that organization to become one of the pre-eminent drivers of economic development in the region.

For Mr. Rolish, public service is a passion. He has served on a number of volunteer boards-and commissions, including the Highland Sewer & Water Authority and the Johnstown Area Regional Industry, and has been an effective fundraiser for causes close to my own heart. He is personally responsible for accumulating over \$100,000 for St. Jude's Hospital and over \$180,000 in private donations for a memorial statue of my mentor in public service, the late Congressman John P. Murtha. In recognition of his beneficence and selflessness, Mr. Rolish was honored with the Chapel of Four Chaplains Legion of Honor award in 2002. This honor is given by the Four Chaplains Memorial Foundation to outstanding individuals who embody the spirit of giving.

Thomas Haberkorn, VCI's Vice President/Secretary, has also devoted his life to serving the people, businesses and non-profits of southwestern Pennsylvania. Like Mr. Rolish, Mr. Haberkorn served his country in the Air Force in Vietnam and continued to serve the public welfare upon returning home. He has served as an East Hills Kiwanis Board member, as well as a member of Johnstown Professional Networking. He has also been active with a number of charities, including the Special Olympics and the Salvation Army.

Mr. Haberkorn's true legacy is his commitment to veterans. He began providing support to those who have served us in combat long before helping to establish VCI. Mr. Haberkorn has been very active with Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) for many years. He is the founder and current president of VVA Chapter 364, as well as the District Director of the VVA Pennsylvania State Council. In addition to working with VVA, Mr. Haberkorn has also done a great deal to support the local VFW, American Legion, and Conemaugh Valley Veterans. Like Mr. Rolish, he has been honored with the Chapel of Four Chaplains Legion of Honor award in recognition of his outstanding public service efforts over many years.

Mr. Speaker, in all of the time I have spent engaging with local community leaders, I have rarely, if ever, encountered two men with stronger character than Craig J. Rolish and Thomas W. Haberkorn. Their fortitude and unwavering commitment to public service—and in particular to serving the needs of combat veterans—deserve our gratitude and appreciation. I am proud to represent them in Congress.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1540,
NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION
ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I voted for the final version of the 2012 National Defense Au-

thorization Act because passage of this bill is important to the servicemen and women of our country and their families. The bill provides an average 1.6 percent pay increase for our troops and ensures that TRICARE premiums for military retirees will not be higher than the rate of increase in the cost-of-living.

In addition, the bill authorizes \$225 million in construction projects for Hawaii, including projects in Fort Shafter, Schofield Barracks, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Kaneohe Bay, and Kalaheo on Oahu and Barking Sands on Kauai. These projects will provide jobs and strengthen the economy.

I do have reservations about the detainee provisions included in the bill. Although the provisions have been modified to provide protections for U.S. citizens, this issue deserves further

The bill does reject the broad House language on the Authorization for Use of Military Force (Section 1034), which many feared could be used by the current or a future president as an unlimited authorization to go to war.

The final bill does not include provisions from the House-passed bill that would have discriminated against gay and lesbian service members. It also provides new protections for victims of sexual assault in the military. These are positive changes that improve the bill.

In addition, the bill reauthorizes for six years the Small Business Innovation Research, SBIR, and Small Business Technology Transfer, STTR, programs, which I strongly support. The SBIR program provides grants as a way to increase participation by small companies in federally financed research and development activities. The related STTR program encourages commercial development by small companies of university and federal laboratory research projects.

I introduced bills earlier this year to strengthen these programs by doubling the amounts of the Phase I (initial investigation phase) and Phase II (research and development) grants, which have been static since 1982. Under the reauthorization provided in this bill, the Phase I awards will rise from \$100,000 to \$150,000 and Phase II grants will increase from \$750,000 to \$1 million. The SBIR program has been especially important in Hawaii and has helped to nurture the growth of some of our most innovative companies, such as TREX Enterprises, Oceanit, Archionetics, and Cellular Bioengineering, Inc., to name a few.

EXTEND UNEMPLOYMENT
INSURANCE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because people are suffering. Time's running out for America's long-term job hunters. If Congress fails to act by December 31, nearly 2 million will be cut off in January alone. And without action in 2012, that number will rise to at least 6 million.

The Ways & Means Committee has been collecting stories on Facebook of people who have lost their jobs and Mr. LEVIN has been reading them on the floor. Yesterday SEIU

launched the ExtendUI tweet-a-thon in hopes to make a powerful case to ExtendUI without cuts or preconditions that hurt the 99 percent. I also collected stories on my Facebook page and via Twitter. Here are some of the stories from my constituents in their own words. Republicans, are you listening? Can't you hear the pain and cries of the American people?

Don Wright: "I need a job for a lot of reasons but the most important one is Dignity. When you don't have a job you feel terrible. It is hard to face other people especially your family. You don't feel like a man anymore. You can't get any respect from your wife and if she leaves you nobody wants to go out with a man without a job. So you are staying single and broke and alone. You get depressed and feel hopeless and you are a good man if you fight against envy—envy of others who have jobs and the things that a job brings. Your family loves you but are at the same time ashamed of you and your kids become worried at being asked what their Daddy does. The list goes on all of it bad. A job any job would be better than no job. Keep the jobless in your mind and hearts."

Paula Christianson: "I lost my job over a year ago due to an accident that left me disabled longer than the Family Medical Leave Act allowed. I had worked there for almost 7 years and was voted employee of the month but none of that mattered when they sent me a termination letter to my home. This has all contributed to my depression issues and Generalized Anxiety disorder. All I do is worry how I am going to survive! It consumes me. Please don't take away this help it is my and many others only hope left! I am not looking for a handout just a helping hand to continue to support my family until I can find employment! Again, please help!"

Patricia Dentley: "I took an early termination package in hopes of continuing working until retirement age, but almost 6 years later, I'm still unemployed, and because of how my package was setup, I couldn't claim unemployment during the initial period after working. I was never in anyone's statistics regarding unemployed, with no benefits other than filing for early retirement or not having that. Most of the jobs with the company I was with is now in other countries with whom the American companies are paying less money, less benefits, and reaping a lot from these countries. I do want the other people in these countries to improve their lives, but we also have to live in ours. I don't know if you remember when our country paid farmers not to farm, now, not only are many people in our country unable to purchase the higher cost foods today, but other countries whom they could have helped are also starving, why, because of greed. I hope this helps not only you Representative RANGEL, but a lot of other people you are fighting for."

Jeanne Alvarado: "I was laid off from my position at Coca Cola Enterprises a year and a half ago. This happened two months before I was to be vested in the company. To say the least, I was devastated and depressed however, I picked myself up and immediately started seeking employment. I have applied to hundreds of positions within the five boroughs which include all the beverage companies, nursing homes etc. I have only had the opportunity to interview for five positions. The painful hard fact Congressman is that companies do not want to hire people of my age group.