

for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes:

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chair, I cannot support this bill in its current form.

It's telling that every domestic program in this year's budget is taking a hit—in some cases, a huge hit. The House majority seems perfectly fine with cutting grant funding for our firefighters, our cops, and other first responders. The House majority thinks it's good public policy to cut programs designed to help the most vulnerable in our society, but any suggestion that we need fewer defense contractors provokes howls of protest. Any suggestion that national security-related corporate welfare should be ended—and I'm referring to the over-budget F-35 program as a prime example—evinces the most hysterical rhetoric about “weakening America's defenses.”

Let's deal with the facts. We spend more on defense than most of the rest of the world combined. We won the Cold War over 20 years ago, yet this budget continues to fund unnecessary and radically over-cost Cold War legacy weapons programs that we don't need, can't afford and won't help us deal with the kind of terrorist threat we face now and into the future. The House majority is throwing the poor under the bus even as it throws a kiss to the military-industrial complex.

The bill also continues funding a war that should have been over long ago. As I've said since 2009, our continued presence in Afghanistan is prolonging the conflict, not helping end it. The President's ill-considered assassination-by-drone policy in Pakistan, which now features Vietnam war-style “signature strikes” against groups of individuals without verification of their status as terrorists, has led to the deaths of an increasing number of innocent civilians. Indeed, the escalation of the drone strikes and the loosening of the intelligence standards under which they operate comes even after Osama bin Laden was killed last year.

The original rationale for invading Afghanistan—getting bin Laden and his associates—no longer exists, yet this bill continues to fund a war whose purpose has clearly been achieved. There is perhaps no greater example of a policy on autopilot than our war in Afghanistan, which is one of the many reasons I do not support this bill.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 103RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 23, 2012*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I am pleased to recognize the National Association for Advancement of Colored People for its 103rd year of pursuing justice and equality for everyone in America, regardless of color, religion, or gender. The NAACP is one of our nation's most revered and outstanding organizations dedicated to social, political, and economic equality. It has fought countless battles—from race riots to voter suppression—to protect the rights of all persons.

I commend the leadership of President Benjamin Jealous who has been outspoken on the

most pressing issues in our communities. He has inspired thousands of Americans across the country to take action, whether it is organizing the “Justice for Trayvon Martin” movement or protests against unfounded voter ID laws.

Furthermore, I am pleased to acknowledge the Mid-Manhattan branch of the NAACP located in my district for its unwavering commitment to our community. The branch is involved in mentorship programs, youth development, and encouraging people to be politically and socially active. This year they helped to organize the “Silent Stop and Frisk” march in June, which rallied roughly 72,000 of our community. I had the pleasure of marching in unison with them against unjust stop and frisk practices that discriminately target minorities and violence in our communities. The event was an example of NAACP's continuous efforts to galvanize and mobilize our communities to stand up for equality.

I am proud to congratulate the Mid-Manhattan branch for receiving the Thalheimer award for outstanding membership enrollment at their annual convention in Houston, Texas earlier this month. I applaud them for their accomplishments in health and education advocacy, fighting for economic empowerment, and continuously standing up for justice.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in honoring the NAACP during its 103rd anniversary for its accomplishments and tireless commitment to uplifting all communities throughout America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ERIC CANTOR**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 23, 2012*

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 487 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

H.R. 5856: THE MORAN AMENDMENT

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 23, 2012*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, last week the House voted on an amendment by Mr. MORAN which prohibits U.S. funds from being used to purchase Russian-made Mi-17 helicopters for the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF). After more than 10 years at war, we recently reached the grim milestone of losing our 2,000th service member in this war. It has been clear for a long time that more of our blood and our money will not help us “win” Afghanistan. Yet long after the last member of our Armed Forces leaves Afghanistan, U.S. taxpayers will be footing the bill for more than half of the \$4 billion per year it will take to support the ANSF over the next decade. This financial support includes military equipment, training and uniforms.

The underlying bill includes a total of \$238.7 billion to continue operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, on top of the \$1.3 trillion we have already spent. It is time for the U.S. to end its

nation-building exercise in Afghanistan, stop funding military spending there and bring the troops home safely and responsibly.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND DEDICATION OF MS. BEATRICE BEILER OF LONG BEACH CALIFORNIA

**HON. LAURA RICHARDSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 23, 2012*

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the tireless service and dedication of one of my own constituents, Ms. Beatrice Beiler. Ms. Beiler has been an essential part of the Long Beach foster care program for over 20 years and has a truly inspirational story.

Upon retiring from Hughes Aircraft in 1992, rather than living the life of leisure that many retirees do, Ms. Beiler chose to be of service. Coming from a big family herself, she has always been very family oriented and it is this experience that opened her mind to the idea to giving back through foster care.

Her caring spirit and giving nature instilled Ms. Beiler with a heart that is able to see the needs of others and immediately try to fulfill those needs. When Ms. Beiler found out that there was a shortage of foster homes able to house multiples of siblings of two or more, she volunteered her home to foster children siblings without hesitation. As a result, she helped many children to avoid damaging transitions by helping them to stay together and maintain a sense of family in spite of the turmoil that led to their entry into the foster care system.

In California there are over 80,000 children in the foster care system, the majority of whom are placed there as a result of parental abuse or neglect. As a member of the Congressional Caucus of Foster Youth I am particularly impressed by the service that Ms. Beiler has done for my community and the many families and children she has helped to reunite. Through her work, many children have had the opportunity to grow up in a safe and loving environment that they might not have otherwise had.

Ms. Beiler has been able to help many foster children succeed despite their painful pasts. Children like Kelsey, a foster child Ms. Beiler has raised since she was just 8 months old until the age of 17, find not only shelter but also love and nurture while in the care of Ms. Beiler. She has seen students go from struggling to stay in school to making straight A's. She has watched many go from dire situations to reunification with their families. It is stories like these that fuel her passion to continue to reach out to anyone whose life she can change for the better. Along with her dedication to the foster care system, Ms. Beiler has also opened a daycare facility to continue to be able to help parents and children in need. It is her mission to touch as many hearts and lives as she can.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Beiler is the type of woman we should all look to emulate. She is selflessly committed and graciously generous with her time, her money, her home, and her love. It is with great pleasure that I have the opportunity recognize the hard work and dedication of this unsung hero.