

college on its golden anniversary. We wish them many more years of continued success.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SURVIVOR BENEFITS CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS RESOLUTION, 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 9, 2013

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H.J. Res. 91.

This past Sunday four of our brave soldiers were killed in Afghanistan by a roadside bomb. Those four included an Army nurse from Joint Base Lewis-McChord, an Army criminal investigator from the 5th Military Police Battalion in Vicenza, Italy, and two Army Rangers from Company B, 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, at Fort Benning, Georgia, which borders my Congressional District, and which I feel a deep commitment to.

And earlier this week I was shocked and angered to learn that the Secretary of Defense and the President were withholding the Death Gratuity for the families of these fallen heroes.

For those of you who do not know what that is, the Death Gratuity is a benefit payable to a designated beneficiary, in a lump sum of \$100,000, for a death on active duty or inactive duty training, and Burial Benefits which provide up to \$10,500 to survivors to cover expenses related to the burial of the service member.

In order to prevent these kinds of delays in benefits, on September 29th, with my full support, the House passed H.R. 3210, the Pay Our Military Act. On September 30th the bill was passed by the Senate and signed into law by President Obama.

Among other things, that bill was to ensure that during the shut down there would be funds available to provide pay and allowances to members of the Armed Forces, including reserve components, who are performing active service.

The Congressional intent of the legislation was clear: to give the Department of Defense the authority to pay these very types benefits to the men and women of this great Nation who have sacrificed to preserve our freedoms. It is a shame that the President and Secretary of Defense are playing politics and not honoring the Congressional intent of the bill already signed into law.

What is even more shameful is that as the Commander in Chief, President Obama is not honoring that role. As the head of our Nation's military, I find it incomprehensible that he has not ordered these benefits to be paid out no matter what. Congress has already approved these funds, but the buck stops with the President, literally. How can the leader of our military turn his back on those he swore to lead?

It is for that reason I speak in support of H.J. Res. 91. This bill will ensure death gratuities and related survivor benefits will be paid out to those families who have given the ultimate sacrifice for our nation.

I hope both sides of the aisle show the respect today that he cannot play politics at the expense of our fallen service men and women, and their families, and give these brave soldiers the respect they deserve.

BORDER SECURITY AND ENFORCEMENT CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS RESOLUTION, 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 10, 2013

Ms. CLARKE. Mr. Speaker, I am deeply concerned that Republican-Majority has brought a bill (H.J. Res 79) to the floor that would provide funds solely for specific offices within the Department of Homeland Security. DHS deemed 86 percent of its employees essential during this forced Republican government shutdown; however, this bill only provides funds for: Immigration and Customs Enforcement, National Protection and Programs Directorate's office of Biometric Identity Management, Coast Guard, Customs and Border Protection, and Citizenship and Immigration Services.

The bill does not provide critical funding for many of the other offices within the DHS that play a vital role in protecting our country. As the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection, and Security Technologies, I advocate for funding of the offices and programs that protect our nation from cyber attacks and monitor our critical infrastructure.

The consequences of accepting this piecemeal bill are very severe, a very risky impediment to the daily duties and services that DHS provides for our country's protection. Providing funds for the DHS, as a whole, is vital to our homeland security. Republicans continue to use this piecemeal approach; showing a reckless disdain for the Federal government and her dedicated employees, which fails to grasp the bigger picture, and have failed to bring an end to this government shutdown. We must, and cannot accept these extortion tactics.

I urge my colleagues to reject this bill and vote for a clean CR, and to raise the debt limit now.

HONORING THE FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY FOR OVER 40 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE IN OFFERING VALUABLE HIGHER EDUCATION

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2013

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Florida Atlantic University (FAU) for their excellence in offering valuable educational opportunities to the residents of South Florida for more than 40 years.

FAU first began operating in my district in 1971 with the opening of the Commercial Boulevard campus in Fort Lauderdale. This campus saw high enrollment and immediate success, and in 1987—just eleven years later—FAU began construction of the Reubin O'D. Askew Tower in downtown Fort Lauderdale. In 1989, the Florida Legislature designated FAU as the lead state university serving Broward County. Shortly thereafter, another large campus was established in Davie. The latest addition to these FAU campuses is a state-of-the-

art, 12-story Higher Education Complex, also located in downtown Fort Lauderdale.

Throughout its history in Broward County, FAU has worked in close cooperation with Broward College, establishing a system of seamless transition from lower-division to upper-division work that can be called a model for the Nation. Thousands of place-bound students who otherwise would have been unable to obtain a university education have earned degrees on FAU's Broward campuses, and have gone on to pursue successful careers in fields that include architecture, public administration, business, communication, engineering, computer science, criminology and criminal justice, social work, urban and regional planning, education, nursing, the arts and sciences, and many more.

FAU boasts the most diverse student body in all of Florida's public universities. With nearly half of the population representing minority groups or foreign nations, their 30,000 member student body was recently ranked the 27th most diverse university in America by the U.S. News & World Report. Students from Broward make up almost 40 percent of this body, maintaining the county's historic status as the home of the greatest number of FAU students and alumni.

Furthermore, it is focused on preserving and protecting the future of South Florida and helping cities all over the world face the challenges of the 21st century. On the Davie campus, FAU researchers are engaged in a critically important initiative to understand and mitigate the major human-caused stressors that have created grave damage to the Everglades. In the Atlantic Ocean, off the coast of Broward County, FAU engineers affiliated with the Southeast National Marine Renewable Energy Center are working to establish the world's first offshore turbine test site, with the goal of advancing the effort to generate energy from ocean currents.

In Dania Beach, residents are being served by a new nano-filtration facility that has vastly improved the quality of the water they receive in their homes. Designed with input from FAU engineering faculty members and students, this is the first water treatment plant in the world to receive Gold Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification from the U.S. Green Building Council.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to recognize Florida Atlantic University for the tremendous work that the institution has done in South Florida for over 40 years. I want to express my sincerest gratitude for their leadership in both providing opportunities for higher education and addressing many environmental issues in the community. I wish the University all my best and many more years of continued success.

COMMENDING NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY FOR ITS SECOND ANNUAL HIGHER EDUCATION INNOVATION PUBLIC SURVEY

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 11, 2013

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, with jobs and the economic recovery continuing to be a top concern of many of my constituents, I rise