

I would also like to note that under current DOD guidelines for Air Transportation Eligibility, it states, "Every effort shall be made to transport passengers with disabilities who are otherwise eligible to travel. Passenger service personnel and crew members shall provide assistance in loading, seating, and unloading the disabled passenger." There is already guidance in place to address passengers with disabilities, and my amendment will codify our commitment for their sacrifice.

This initiative has strong bi-partisan support, which has over 230 current cosponsors to the stand alone bill I introduced, H.R. 164. Moreover, this initiative has support in the Senate with the companion bill S. 346 offered by Senator JON TESTER from Montana.

While I was very pleased to see my amendment accepted in last year's National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for fiscal year 2014, it was unfortunate it was not accepted in the Senate process during consideration for the bill's passage.

The National Federation of the Blind has been very active in both the House and the Senate in its advocacy for our nations' disabled veterans. I submit a support letter for this amendment by the National Federation of the Blind (NFB).

While active duty members and their families will remain the primary beneficiaries of this program in order to assist them with the rigors of military life, my amendment simply allows these veterans the opportunity to fill available seats, a benefit I believe they have earned through their personal sacrifice.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to end the inequality for our nation's wounded warriors by voting in favor of my amendment. I thank the committees and their staff for their assistance through this process

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF THE BLIND,
Baltimore, MD, May 19, 2014.

Subject: Support for H.R. 164

Hon. GUS M. BILIRAKIS,
House of Representatives, 2313 Rayburn House
Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN BILIRAKIS: The National Federation of the Blind is the Nation's oldest and largest consumer group of blind Americans. We are composed of blind individuals who come from many different backgrounds, and we work to ensure that the concerns of all blind Americans are met.

Included in our organization is the National Association of Blinded Veterans. Recently these men and women who served our country brought to our attention a policy that we believe needs to be changed. The Space Available program is a program that allows a number of military personnel to fly on military transport planes if there is space remaining. This may include members of the Active Military, Family members of the Active Military, some components of Reserve Forces, individuals who are responding to emergency situations, such as the Red Cross, and retirees. We believe that individuals who have become disabled in the service of our country should be allowed to participate in this program.

Shortly after being made aware of this issue by blinded veterans, we learned that you introduced legislation to solve this problem in the last Congress. We are pleased that you reintroduced this legislation, H.R. 164, early in this session of Congress. The National Federation of the Blind stands firmly in support of this legislation, and will dedicate our support and our efforts to ensure its passage in this session of Congress.

Last June, thanks to your leadership, the United States House of Representatives

voted to include this language in the 2014 National Defense Authorization Act. Unfortunately our Senate companion amendment was not allowed to be considered during Senate consideration in December. We appreciate the support shown by the House of Representatives, and urge the House to continue to fight for Service Disabled Veterans, by joining with you to include this language in the 2015 National Defense Authorization Act.

We thank you for your leadership to support these men and women who have given service to defend our rights, and we now join with you to defend their rights to participate in the Space Available program.

JOHN G. PARÉ, JR.,
Executive Director for
Advocacy and Policy.

RECOGNITION OF MCAA HEAD START AND EARLY HEAD START

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Manatee Community Action Agency's (MCAA) Head Start and Early Head Start programs that change lives by helping to prepare children in my Congressional District for school.

MCAA's Head Start programs started in the summer of 1965 with 60 children. Today there are 630 children enrolled in eight locations throughout Manatee County, including 65 children with special needs. More than 3,000 children have participated in the programs since its inception.

The Head Start program serves children from age 3 to 5 and partners with parents and families to ensure continuity of positive growth and development at home and school.

Early Head Start serves children from birth to age 3, pregnant women and their families. MCAA provides very young children with an environment that stimulates them and motivates them to use all of their senses.

Furthermore, 100 percent of the children enrolled in MCAA's early learning programs during the 2012–2013 school year were provided with continuous access to healthcare, and were up to date on age-appropriate preventive and primary health care and immunizations.

MCAA's Head Start and Early Head Start students scored high marks in meeting school readiness and educational goals. On goal assessments, the students scored in the upper 90 percent range in the areas of physical health status and knowledge, gross motor skills, fine motor skills, self-concept, self-regulation, and emotional and behavioral health.

By focusing on the whole child—mental, physical, emotional and social well-being—MCAA's Head Start and Early Head Start programs prepare the children of Manatee County for a lifetime of educational success.

HONORING THE 2014 PLANO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICTS' TEACHER OF THE YEAR NOMINEES

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Plano Independent School Districts' 2014 Teacher of the Year Nominees. These outstanding educators are motivating and engaging our children to become lifelong learners and equip them with the tools to succeed.

Education is one of the fundamental building blocks of a person's future and a successful nation. Our teachers deserve to be celebrated for their service to the next generation of leaders. I commend you all for your hard work, dedication to your students, and commitment to excellence in education.

These 72 individuals were nominated by their peers at their respective schools. This is a true testament to their inspirational impact on not only their students but their fellow teachers.

These great teachers mold young dreams; they spark a flame for a student to study liberal arts or pursue a career in science or even push an athlete to the next level. They are the guardian of dreams for the student who wants to be the first in their family to attend and graduate college, and it is their constant, gentle approach that keeps these young leaders on the path to success. It is your encouragement, time, and tireless efforts that help make a young person's dreams of obtaining a higher education, starting a business, or serving in the U.S. military a reality. It is extraordinary teachers like you that make our community, our country and the world a better place.

It is for these reasons and countless more that I thank you all for your continued efforts in giving our students an exemplary, top-notch education.

I look forward to learning of the future successes of the nationally recognized Plano Independent School Districts 7,000 employees, hundreds of teachers, and 55,000+ students.

God Bless you and I salute you.

A record of each nominee's name and school they serve is listed below.

Heather Schmitt—Beaty, Kristi Vest—Head Start, Bethany Bowers—Isaacs, Sarah Senne—Pearson, Karen Christensen—Aldridge, Mindy Schreiber—Andrews, Chrystal Litman—Barksdale, Penny Beazley—Barron, Connie Gillmore—Bethany, Nora Davis—Beverly, Ashley Dantzler—Bogges, Amy Chilcutt—Brinker, Laura Teague—Carlisle, Jennifer Collins—Centennial, Meagan Middlebrooks—Christie, Joanne Curley—Daffron, Erin Graham—Davis, Lauren Shaw—Dooley, Andrew Wick—Forman, Emily Hollingsworth—Gulledge, Lode Lyon—Haggart, Linda Culbreth—Harrington, Cyndy Baltzley—Haun, Tiffany Samuel—Hedgcoxe, Michele Rollins—Hickey, Patrick Quinlan—Hightower, Donna Hartman—Huffman, Lori Turnbull—Hughston, Kelly Hamilton—Hunt, Shelly Arthur—Jackson, Kristin Glasscock—Mathews, Julie Walker—McCall, Leigh Adams—Meadows, Kaitlin Eckstein—Memorial, Debbie LaChey—Mendenhall, Lacy Watson—Miller, Laura

Arellano—Mitchell, Rebecca Bailey—Rasor, Christi Burkle—Saigling, Jessica Sides—Schell, Jana Martin—Shepard, Kari Tolle—Sigler, Megan Bruce—Skaggs, Whitney Pitzer—Stinson, Casey Howell—Thomas, Debbie Little—Weatherford, Stacy Lawrence—Wells, Kim Ramirez—Wyatt, Ashley Brown—Bird Center, Kathleen Farquhar—Armstrong, Mark Caspersen—Bowman, Kathleen Zeier—Carpenter, Anna Vines—Frankford, Eric Feldman—Haggard, Karen Home—Hendrick, Nick Seibert—Murphy, Bonny Pan—Otto, Neelima Singh—Renner, Cindy Woolum—Rice, Kimberley Ahrens—Robinson, Azam Anet—Schimelpfenig, Kennitra Robertson—Wilson, Karen Stanton—Clark, David Jones—Jasper, Sarah Fischer—McMillen, Joshua Thompson—Shepton, Fred Sampson—Vines, Christine Miller—Williams, Megan Walters—Academy, Daniel Knight—Plano East, Terry Eder—Plano Senior, Barbara Nelson—Plano West.

HONORING CHELAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES ADAM MUSGROVE AND RYAN MOODY

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Chelan County Sheriffs Deputies Adam Musgrove and Ryan Moody. Deputies Musgrove and Moody were awarded the highest law enforcement honor in Washington State, the Law Enforcement Medal of Honor for meritorious conduct.

Like the other officers who received medals of honor that day, Deputies Musgrove and Moody are accustomed to running toward danger instead of away. In this instance, their heroic actions not only put themselves at risk but resulted in a saved life when they rescued a man from burning building in September 2013. I am honored to call them both my constituents and to serve on their behalf in Congress.

The award was presented on Friday May 2, 2014 by Governor Jay Inslee and Washington Attorney General Bob Ferguson. They were two of only eleven to receive this prestigious honor.

Mr. Speaker, I salute Chelan County Sheriffs Deputies Adam Musgrove and Ryan Moody, and I thank them for all they have given back to the people of Washington State. Thank you.

HOWARD P. "BUCK" MCKEON NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4435) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Chair, I would like to thank Chairman MCKEON and the Mem-

bers of the House Armed Services Committee for the Committee's work on the Fiscal Year 2015 National Defense Authorization Act. As the Chairman of the House Small Business Committee, I know very well that efforts of this magnitude take leadership, thoughtfulness and compromise. I support the final bill, and thank the Committee for continuing to make our Nation's security a top priority.

I want to draw attention to a key priority that the Committee helped address this year. Earlier this year, United States Navy offered to the Committee its "unfunded priority" request of additional EA-18G Growlers, an electronic attack aircraft. Specifically, the Navy Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Admiral Jonathan Greenert testified that there is an emerging requirement for more electronic attack, and he asked for 22 Growlers. The Growler is the only aircraft that can provide the full spectrum electronic attack that are needed for future operations.

In addition to a specific warfighting capability that the Growler provides, the men and women that work on the aircraft are part of America's aerospace industry that has undergone significant change over the last several decades. A vital part of this industry are the small businesses that have kept our military force on the cutting edge, armed with technologies and programs no other nation can match. The production of the Growler is no exception to this rule as there are 340 small businesses that are located across 32 states, including in my home state of Missouri, which support the program.

At a time when the small business sector is regaining its footing in the recovering economy, there should be a way to preserve the military industrial base. This bill supports that effort by adding 5 Growlers above the President's Budget Request and encouraging the Navy to keep the manufacturing line open. Closing the line would not only upend many small businesses that sustain the program, but would also lead to less competition and fewer innovative technology breakthroughs in tactical aviation. The Committee bill represents a good first step at meeting the dual needs of the Navy's requirements and the defense industrial base.

As the Fiscal Year 2015 bills move through the process, I look forward to working with the Committee to meet the needs of the warfighter and to protect the small businesses interests in our Nation.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,485,062,209,497.43. We've added \$6,858,185,160,583.35 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.9 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

RECOGNIZING ARMED FORCES DAY

HON. JERRY MCNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Armed Forces Day, which took place on May 17th. We have set this day aside to recognize the men and women of our armed forces since Armed Forces Day was established by President Harry Truman in 1949.

All Americans should take time to honor the sacrifices of our people in uniform serving in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard around the world. They put their lives at risk to protect us, to rescue us, and to assure our freedom and that of our allies.

Our service members endure harsh and often life-threatening conditions, long hours, and extended periods away from their families for the best reason of all—because their country asked them to. I urge Americans to thank members of the armed forces for their service when they see them in the community, to help their families when they are deployed, and to hire them when they leave the service and are coming back into our communities as veterans.

CONGRATULATING THE TELACU EDUCATION FOUNDATION ON THEIR 31ST ANNUAL BUILDING THE DREAM GALA

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the TELACU Education Foundation, a non-profit organization based in my 40th Congressional District. The Foundation has been transforming educational outcomes for thousands of Latino students over more than three decades.

TELACU, The East Los Angeles Community Union, is a pioneer in empowering and revitalizing communities in our great State of California and throughout our Nation. More than 30 years ago, in response to crisis-level dropout rates for Latino students in college, TELACU created the TELACU Education Foundation. Working in partnership with a vast network of colleges, universities, corporations, and individuals, the TELACU Education Foundation has awarded millions of dollars in scholarships to thousands of deserving students.

As the centerpiece of the Foundation, the College Success Program annually provides scholarships to 500 college and graduate students who are the first in their families to access higher education. Realizing that financial resources alone cannot fully meet these students' needs, the program provides these scholars with comprehensive academic and career guidance to ensure that they graduate.

The Foundation also serves an additional 1,600 middle and high school students, nursing school students, and veterans. Through comprehensive educational programs, these scholars are not only inspired to pursue higher education, but are also equipped to meet the