

resident most of her life, Mrs. Brown used her skills and personality to work with Federal agencies, Congress and the fire service community to achieve the goal of a safer America.

As a congressional staffer in 1982, Mrs. Brown successfully coordinated the effort to continue the U.S. Fire Administration after its recommended elimination. Also, Mrs. Brown was instrumental in the passage of many important pieces of legislation, including the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act, the Hotel and Motel Fire Safety Act of 1990, and the Fire Administration Authorization Act of 1992, which led to the establishment of the "National Fallen Firefighters Foundation".

President William J. Clinton and a parade of witnesses testified on her behalf 20 years ago at her nomination hearing. I was proud to testify at her hearing myself to assist her in making history as the first female African American U.S. fire administrator. As U.S. Fire Administrator, her management innovations included the development of the first complete and transparent budget accountability system, and the establishment of a fair and equitable pay and promotion policy. With her extensive background as a congressional staffer, she developed strong justifications for the largest budget increase in the 25-year history of the agency. Under her strong leadership, the agency implemented the first fire safety program targeting groups at the highest risk of fire.

Mrs. Brown has traveled widely to speak on women becoming successful in government, women as leaders and managers in non-traditional positions, and the joys and perils of a political appointee. After retiring from the Federal government, she worked for over a decade as a teacher and tutor for students with learning differences in Washington, D.C. Her husband Larry and herself, have three children and one grandson. Our nation is better because of Mrs. Brown.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in thanking Mrs. Carrye B. Brown for her dedicated public service and her many accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM HUELSKAMP

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. HUELSKAMP. Mr. Speaker, due to a family obligation, I was unable to vote in the House on Wednesday, May 21st, therefore I am not recorded as voting. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: rollcall No. 223, I would have voted "nay"; rollcall No. 224, I would have voted "nay", rollcall No. 225, I would have voted "no"; rollcall No. 226, I would have voted "no"; rollcall No. 227, I would have voted "aye"; rollcall No. 228, I would have voted "yea"; rollcall No. 229, I would have voted "yea" on H.R. 4031, the Department of Veterans Affairs Management Accountability Act of 2014, of which I was an original co-sponsor.

TRIBUTE TO HARVEY DOUMA

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Harvey Douma, who has devoted his life to Ripon, California and is being honored with the Harvey Douma Lifetime Achievement Award from the Ripon Rotary Club. The club created this award to recognize and honor a Rotary member who has made immeasurable contributions to the club and named it after a charter member. Harvey will be the first recipient.

In 1918, Harvey Douma arrived in Ripon when he was only a year and a half of age. The family made the trip from Northern Michigan in their seven passenger car. The clutch went out on the trip and they took the train for the remainder of their journey. They arrived in Lathrop on November 17, where they waited, for eight hours, to transfer to another train that would take them to the Ripon, California.

When he came of age, Harvey enlisted in the Merchant Marines. He attended basic training on Catalina Island during World War II. His first duty station assignment was to a troop transport on a ship that was in dry dock at San Pedro, California.

After completing his service to his country, he returned to Ripon. He joined the Ripon Police Department, where he was a member for 31 years. Harvey served as Chief of Police from October 1, 1963 to May 26, 1982, which is the longest tenure of any police chief in Ripon history.

In 1968, at the 6th Annual Ripon Almond Blossom Festival, the Ripon Chamber of Commerce dedicated the festival to salute local law enforcement with emphasis to be placed on "Operation Crime Stop". They named Harvey as the Grand Marshal of the parade. He also had the honor of serving as Grand Marshal of Ripon High School's Centennial Parade & Celebration. As a 1935 Ripon High School graduate, he is the oldest living alumnus.

As one that gives back to his community, he is a member of several community organizations. As a charter member of the Ripon Rotary Club, he has earned 2 Paul Harris Awards. In addition, he is a charter member of Ripon's Historical Society, life member of the Chamber of Commerce and served as President in 1970; he has been a member of the Safety Council for over 55 years. When he is not volunteering his time, he enjoys fishing, hunting and travel.

In 1939, Harvey married Etta Mae Ramsey. They were married for 58 years until her death in 1997. Their union produced three children; Linda Perrando, Donna Vincelet Brundy, and Donald Douma. They have 6 grandchildren: Diane Wong, Greg & Roger Vincelet; Mike & Mark Perrando; Stacey Cordoba & Dorine Hatcher and 7 great-grandchildren: Lyndsey & Kyle Wong; Megan Vincelet Van Ruiten & Cody Vincelet; Jordyn & Jayse Vincelet; Julia Hatcher, Deceased.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating with the Ripon Rotary Club in honoring Harvey Douma with the Harvey Douma Lifetime Achievement Award. He is a man who dedicated numerous years of selfless service to the betterment of our community.

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

SPEECH OF

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 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. CALVERT. Mr. Chair, today I was proud to vote to approve H.R. 4435, the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2015. The NDAA is the key mechanism to provide necessary authorities and funding for America's military.

Even in an era of constrained taxpayer resources, it is essential that we find ways to ensure our military has the funding necessary to carry out its mission. The FY15 NDAA provides a responsible fiscal balance and prioritizes the critical tools our troops need to maintain and perform as the finest fighting force in the world. The bill also provides our warfighters, and their families, with the support and care that we have promised them.

One area that was minimally addressed was the size and growth of the civilian workforce at the Department of Defense (DoD). The NDAA tasks GAO to assess DoD's headquarter reduction efforts, building off its previous work conducted for the committee on examining growth in DOD headquarters. However, I believe Congress must go a step further in addressing the growth of the civilian workforce, especially as we draw down our uniformed personnel. It is important to note that:

From FY01 to FY14, the civilian staff has grown by 15 percent while total active military has declined by 4 percent;

The ratio of civilian workers to uniformed personnel is the highest in recent history despite the draw down in Iraq and Afghanistan;

There are currently 718,000 civilian personnel versus 1.3 million active duty, a ratio that is out of balance.

This imbalance is why I introduced the Rebalance for an Effective Defense Uniform and Civilian Employees Act (REDUCE Act, H.R. 4257). The REDUCE Act would require the Department of Defense to make necessary reductions in a systematic manner without compromising our ability to maintain a strong national defense over the long term.

The REDUCE Act would:

Reduce our defense civilian workforce by 15 percent by FY 2020. This percentage was recommended by the Defense Business Board, a trusted, authoritative, and independent source of expertise.

The Department of Defense civilian workforce would remain at or below this established cap of a 15 percent reduction for Fiscal Years 2021 through 2025.

The Department of Defense civilian Senior Executive Service career appointee workforce will be reduced to 1,000 by 2020 and remain at or below 1,000 employees for Fiscal Years 2021 through 2025.

Provide the Secretary of Defense the authority to use voluntary separation incentive