

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

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

SPEECH OF

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

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. CLAY. Mr. Chair, I would like to commend the House Armed Services Committee and its Chairman, Honorable BUCK MCKEON, and Ranking Member, Honorable ADAM SMITH, on passage of the FY15 Defense Authorization Bill today that includes funding for additional Navy EA-18G "Growler" aircraft, as well as language to continue the EA-18G and F/A-18 E/F lines in my district in St. Louis, Missouri.

The United States Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Greenert, has testified to Congress numerous times this year about the growing need to control the electromagnetic spectrum to support the war fighter. He and the Navy have requested 22 additional EA-18G "Growler" aircraft, as part of an unfunded requirement, to meet these expanding electronic attack requirements.

I have a number of constituents that work on the EA-18G and F/A-18 production lines in St. Louis. Without additional aircraft from Congress this year, this production line will shut down, and we as a nation will lose a national asset—including thousands of dedicated and talented workers who make up this defense industrial base.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in the coming weeks, especially on the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, to help address this clear Navy requirement. We need to support our war fighter, and the EA-18G "Growler" is vital to operating and prevailing in the important and growing airborne electronic attack environment.

RECOGNIZING THE 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PRINCE WILLIAM LASSIE LEAGUE

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 23, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 45th anniversary of the Prince William Lassie League for their continued service and dedication of providing a youth softball sports program for Prince William County girls to all walks of life.

In 1969, a handful of rural Prince William County residents were concerned that there

were not enough sports opportunities for young girls. They created a slow-pitch softball league for girls aged 6–16. This new sports venue quickly complimented the many sports venues for boys and provided girls a place of their own to play sports and have friendly competition. This new league of slow-pitch softball for girls was known as the "Dale City Lassie League."

In 1991, 22 years after its creation, the Dale City Lassie League became the Prince William Lassie League, which accommodated the growing county and its many families. With the dedication of volunteers and communities, the Lassie League has provided an avenue where young girls can develop athletic skills, cultivate life-long friends and learn sportsmanship. In the past 45 years, the Lassie League has supported between 12–15 thousand players and families through participation. The Lassie League now supports girls aged 5–18 and conducts two seasons (spring and fall) annually.

The doors to the Lassie League are open to all young girls in Prince William County, no matter what their social or economic background might be. For young girls whose family is financially limited, the Lassie League finds a way for that girl and her family to participate. The League also provides college scholarships annually to participating girls.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 45th anniversary of the Prince William Lassie League.

STOP ADVERTISING VICTIMS OF EXPLOITATION ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2014

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, sex trafficking is one of the most appalling crimes of our time. It is a modern day form of slavery, and deserves our attention and resources so we can put an end to this hideous practice. This is why I support the intent of H.R. 4225, the Stop Advertising Victims of Exploitation Act of 2014. This bill targets the facilitators of sex trafficking by prohibiting anyone from benefiting financially from or distributing advertising that offers a commercial sex act in a manner that violates federal criminal code prohibitions against sex trafficking of children.

However, I could not support this bill because it adds these activities to a list of current crimes for which mandatory minimums jail sentences are required. Simply put, mandatory minimum penalties do not work. They discount factors in crimes, prevent judges from meting out punishments that are tailored to the criminal, and have been proven discriminatory to people of color.

Mandatory minimum sentences make legislators feel good, but have wrought terrible injustices in certain cases. They have been de-

monstrably shown not to reduce crime rates. Even the Judicial Conference, the group that represents federal judges, has said that mandatory minimums violate common sense.

For this reason, I cannot support H.R. 4225—however well intended—because it prescribes mandatory jail sentences.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 4031, the Department of Veterans Affairs Management Accountability Act.

First and foremost, let me address the serious allegations that employees at a number of VA hospitals around the country placed veterans on secret waiting lists and manipulated backlog data. This is absolutely shameful and if the VA Inspector General determines those claims to be true, we must hold those individuals accountable and swiftly remove and punish all employees who were part of this alleged wrongdoing.

Unfortunately, the bill before us today is a fake solution and provides no real fix to the fundamental problems at the VA. Its stated purpose is to hold senior level employees accountable by giving the VA Secretary the authority to terminate them at-will. However, current law already allows for Senior Executives to be terminated for poor performance. Moreover, the VA has broad tools to remove individuals from the SES who are rated unsatisfactory, while providing them no right of appeal. In the last two years, fourteen Senior Executives have been removed.

This legislation is an impulsive political reaction to an awful situation, and has many unintended consequences that could ultimately jeopardize the quality and care that our veterans receive. It would dismantle civil service protections that have been in place for decades and would open the door for political abuse and witch-hunts, effectively creating a mechanism where career federal employees could be removed because of their views or political affiliation. If passed, it would turn 400 Senior Executives at the VA—including many who served in the armed services and are veterans themselves—into at-will employees.

Mr. Speaker, there is nothing more important than providing for the men and women who have made so many sacrifices for our country. However, this bill merely provides a knee-jerk public relations response to a serious problem, and glosses over the real systemic issues we need to address at the Veterans' Administration.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

USA FREEDOM ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by thanking Chairman GOODLATTE, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, the other Judiciary Committee sponsors, and Leader CANTOR for all of their hard work coming to a compromise with the Intelligence Committee that enacts meaningful change to FISA while preserving operational capabilities.

It is commendable that we have found a responsible legislative solution to address concerns about the bulk telephone metadata program so that we may move forward on other national security legislative priorities. Our obligation to protect this country should not be held hostage by the actions of traitors who leak classified information that puts our troops in the field at risk or those who fear-monger and spread mistruth to further their own misguided agenda.

Following the criminal disclosures of intelligence information last June, the Section 215 telephone metadata program has been the subject of intense, and often inaccurate, criticism. The bulk telephone metadata program is legal, overseen, and effective at saving American lives. All three branches of government oversee this program, including Congress, inspectors general, and internal compliance and privacy and civil liberties offices in executive branch agencies.

Despite the effectiveness of the program, and the immense safeguards on the data, many Americans and many Members of this body still have concerns about a potential for abuse. The legislation we are considering today is designed to address those concerns and reflects hundreds of hours of Member and staff work to negotiate a workable compromise.

In March, Intelligence Committee Ranking Member RUPPERSBERGER and I introduced legislation that was designed to accomplish these main priorities: We committed to ending bulk metadata collection of communications and other types of records. We committed to providing more targeted, narrow authorities so as not to put America at risk. We committed to providing an even more robust judicial review process for the program. And we committed to providing more transparency into the FISA process and the decisions of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court. The revised USA Freedom Act accomplishes the same goals, as well.

This legislation is intended to prohibit "bulk" collection activities under the authorities in question. "Bulk" collection means the indiscriminate acquisition of information or tangible things. It does not mean the acquisition of a large number of communications records or other tangible things. Rather, the prohibition applies to the use of these authorities to engage in indiscriminate or "bulk" data collection. These changes are intended to respond to concerns that these authorities could be used to permit a bulk data collection "loop-hole."

The bill bans bulk collection by introducing the requirement for a "specific selection term." The ban on bulk collection, however, is not in-

tended to limit acquisition of information through the traditional, targeted types of FISA or National Security Letters. The list of examples of what may constitute a specific selection term is non exhaustive, and we anticipate there will be other forms of discriminants than those contained in the legislation.

The legislation also creates a new mechanism for obtaining call detail records on a continuing basis for up to 180 days to protect against international terrorism. The legislation is not intended to affect any current uses of Section 501 outside of the bulk context, including for records related to foreign intelligence information not concerning a U.S. person and clandestine intelligence activities.

We also assured that the language we are considering today permits a return of two hops to include using records identified by the government as the basis for the second hop. Additionally, it is important that when records are produced to the government they are produced in a form that will be useful—meaning that the government can set conditions on their production, including by determining the format and manner for production. This does not, however, mandate that companies change their business practices to store data in any particular form.

The USA Freedom Act provides the meaningful change to the telephone metadata program that Members of the House have been seeking. If we had the fortune of having a Commander in Chief firmly dedicated to the preservation of this program as is, we may have been able to protect it in its entirety. With that not being the case, I believe this is a workable compromise that protects the core function of a counterterrorism program we know has saved lives around the world.

I urge Members to support this legislation.

RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PRINCE WILLIAM COMMITTEE OF 100

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 23, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 25th anniversary of the Prince William Committee of 100.

The Prince William Committee of 100 was founded to pursue a simple but essential mission: examining issues facing Prince William County and the cities of Manassas and Manassas Park by engaging topics through educational forums. By hosting thoughtful discussions and debates, the Committee pursues solutions to area problems and helps foster a better understanding of pressing community matters.

The Prince William Committee of 100 strives to attract membership that is representative of the cultural, political, professional, and demographic diversity of the Prince William area. Membership must reside or work in Prince William County or the Cities of Manassas and Manassas Park and demonstrate that they are community stakeholders with a vested interest in local affairs.

It is my honor to enter into the Congressional Record the names of the current officers and board members of the Prince William Committee of 100. It is dedication like theirs

that has helped sustain this vital organization for 25 years.

President: Denny Daugherty
 Vice President: Jack Kooyoomjian
 Secretary: Jan Cunard
 Assistant Secretary: Carol Proven
 Treasurer: Harry Wiggins
 Assistant Treasurer: Patricia Bradburn
 Brentsville Director: Mary Beth Schaal
 Coles Director: Jim O'Connor
 Gainesville Director: Carol Noggle
 City of Manassas Director: Susan Bardenhagen
 Neabsco Director: Patrick Durany
 Occoquan Director: Don Scoggins
 Potomac Director: James Young
 Woodbridge Director: Antonio Merrick
 At Large Director: Judy Anderson
 At Large Director: Harry Glasgow
 At Large Director: Connie Moser
 At Large Director: Jane Beyer
 Immediate Past President: Martha Hendley
 Program Chair: Judy Zoll
 Assistant Program Chair: Carol Noggle
 Publicity Chair: Connie Moser
 Assistant Publicity Chair: Nancy Vehrs
 Auditors: Tony Guiffre and Judith Anderson
 Webmaster: Jim O'Connor

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the Prince William Committee of 100 on its 25th anniversary. The Committee helps create an active and more well-informed citizenry and our community is stronger for it.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 23, 2014

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I submit a clarification of my vote during consideration of H.R. 4435, the Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015. I mistakenly voted "no" on rollcall Vote 231, the McKinley of West Virginia Amendment No. 1. I intended to vote "aye."

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, our veterans have served our Nation with pride and honor since our country was founded over 200 years ago, and we owe them and their families a debt that we can never fully repay.

One of the things we can do, however, is ensure that veterans receive the benefits they have earned, and providing high-quality health care must be our foremost priority. If a person is ill, his or her entire quality of life is affected.

The revelations we have learned about the gross negligence at the Phoenix hospital are shocking and deplorable and should be condemned—and should never happen again. But H.R. 4031 does not get to the root of the matter and it does not fix the issue.

Clearly there are serious problems at the VA that must be addressed, and those that allowed this travesty must be held accountable.