

of my district's electricity needs. These groups rely heavily on risk mitigation provided by this bill. If the federal government overly regulates the use of risk mitigation, industries and constituents within my district will see hikes in their monthly energy bills.

H.R. 2289 will allow American business to run as intended without new burdensome regulations and red-tape from bureaucratic government agencies. Most importantly this bill allows the American economy to do what it does best producing the world's food and fiber while supplying affordable energy.

I congratulate Chairman CONAWAY on a well crafted bill and a thorough committee process and urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the underlying bill.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN KLINE

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 10, 2015

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2685) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes:

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of my amendment aiming to expedite cleanup within a neglected category of defense sites in my state and nationwide.

During World War II, while our troops were fighting abroad, facilities across the nation here at home were busy creating the supplies and provisions that fueled our efforts. One such site is Gopher Ordnance Works in my district. The Gopher Ordnance Works site was built and operated by the federal government during World War II for the production of smokeless gunpowder and nitric and sulfuric acids. The then-existing War Department acquired approximately 12,000 acres of farmland near Rosemount, Minnesota for the construction of the plant. After the war was won and the efforts at home wound down, the Department of the Army declared the Gopher Ordnance Works to be surplus property, and the facilities on the land were partially deconstructed. Unfortunately, some of the structures and many of the contaminants remain to this very day, more than 60 years later.

Over the years the federal government realized sites like Gopher Ordnance Works must be cleaned up. Accordingly, Congress created the Formerly Used Defense Sites—or FUDS—program as part of the Defense Environmental Restoration Program in the mid-1980s. The goal of the FUDS program is to clean up these sites so they can be put back into productive use and no longer pose a potential health threat to our constituents.

Mr. Chair, the site in my district is not unique. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers maintains an inventory of FUDS properties nationwide, and per the Army Corps, there are almost 10,000 potential properties that could qualify, with up to 2,700 of those requiring some sort of cleanup. Every single state in our nation, the District of Columbia, and our territories all have sites within their respective borders. This issue affects all of our constituents.

It is unacceptable to take so long to make so little progress in addressing these sites. It is worse if the cleanup delay is due to legal disputes over FUDS properties or simple lack of knowledge about what contaminants are present. This is the case in one subset of the FUDS program categorized as Potentially Responsible Party—or PRP—sites. PRP sites are locations where the Department of Defense as well as other parties potentially contributed to the contamination. Instead of acting on these sites and putting them back into productive use, PRP sites get mired in extensive site studies and disputes over who left what at the site.

Mr. Chair, Gopher Ordnance Works in my district is a PRP site that has not received appropriate attention from the federal agencies delegated with the authority to resolve liability and move forward with cleanup. For more than a decade, I have advocated tirelessly to the Army Corps in an attempt to facilitate cleanup and navigate its backlogged bureaucracy. Enough is enough. I am asking the Army Corps to prioritize PRP sites and move forward expeditiously toward a solution for environmental investigation and pollution cleanup costs at Gopher Ordnance Works. I am here, ready, and available to offer what assistance is necessary in Congress on behalf of my constituents. I expect the Army Corps and the Department of Defense to fulfill their mission, committing to their responsibilities toward real, productive solutions.

The underlying bill funds environmental restoration for all FUDS properties. My amendment would have required no less than \$10,000,000 of the Environmental Restoration—Formerly Used Defense Sites funds to be available for remedial investigations on the too often neglected PRP sites, removing one obstacle that is preventing these sites from becoming usable.

While it is regrettable the House Parliamentarians ruled that procedures and protocols of the House prevent this particular bill from being a vehicle to fix this problem, I will continue my efforts so these sites can finally be cleaned and restored, resolving this issue once and for all in support of our communities.

CONGRATULATING THE AL WEST
COLLISION CENTER OF ROLLA

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Al West Collision Center of Rolla on their grand opening and ribbon cutting that took place on June 1st. Not only did they host a successful event kicking off the start of their business, but were able to raise money for local charities in the process.

Over 100 people gathered at the Al West Collision Center to celebrate their grand opening. The cornerstone of the event was a raffle to win a Dodge Challenger, with one hundred percent of the profit going to two local charities. The first charity the raffle benefited is the Association of United States Army Wounded Warriors which supports wounded and severely disabled Army veterans and their families in the Rolla area. The second charity, the Greater Rolla Area Charitable Enterprise, as-

sists needy families in a variety of ways from providing them with food to even helping pay the bills. I'm proud of Missouri small businesses who give back to their community such as the Al West Collision Center.

For the money that was raised for local charities through their raffle, and to celebrate their recent grand opening, it is my pleasure to recognize the Al West Collision Center of Rolla before the House of Representatives and wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 2015

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, on June 9, 2015, I was unavoidably detained during a series of Roll Call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "YEA" on the following Roll Call votes: #309, on final passage of the Commodity End-User Relief Act and #329, on final passage of the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016.

HONORING MS. ANNETTE GUMM

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 2015

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Ms. Annette Gumm, who, after years of service to Palm Beach County, is leaving the area. I speak for the citizens of Palm Beach County when I say that she will be greatly missed.

Ms. Gumm's public service in Florida began when she moved to Gleneagles in 1986 following an early retirement. She quickly became involved in her new community by volunteering with Plumosa Elementary School and Delray Community Hospital. In 1992, she was asked to join the campaign of Burt Aaronson; and, following his victory, she served as the Commissioner's administrative aide for several years.

Ms. Gumm also joined the Atlantic Democratic Club and was pivotal in transforming the organization into the United South County Democratic Club (USCDC). She has held several positions in USCDC, including Treasurer, Vice President, and President.

The amount of time and effort Ms. Gumm has expended for the betterment of her community is truly admirable and exhibits a level of passion worthy of recognition. It is with great pleasure that I honor, my dear friend, Annette Gumm.

IN HONOR OF REV. DR. BRITT
ARMANDO STARGHILL

HON. DONALD NORCROSS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 2015

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Rev. Dr. Britt

Armando Starghill, a man who inspired South Jersey through his words and his selfless actions. Motivating youths to pursue academic careers and serving his church for 19 years, Armando was undoubtedly a champion for Camden, NJ and he will truly be missed by all.

Over the course of his career at Kaighn Avenue Baptist Church, Rev. Starghill's visionary leadership transformed practical ministry and his community. By connecting the church with area youths he was able to serve as a vital mentor to the community through services like hosting the Baccalaureate mass. He dedicated his entire life to serving others. Encouraging young adults in the city of Camden to attend college, Armando viewed education as the ultimate liberator for Camden's youth.

Rev. Starghill began preaching at the age of 13 and dedicated his entire life to service. After graduating from Virginia Union University, he went on to earn his doctorate from Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School, Rochester, NY. He then pursued a religious career and answered the call to serve wherever that led him. A social justice advocate, Rev. Starghill began a non-profit community development corporation to improve the socioeconomic environment for Camden's citizens. By working on the Nehemiah Project, the Reverend attempted to combine a spiritual belonging in the Baptist Church with a sense of responsibility and pride in Camden's revitalization efforts.

Rev. Starghill was also a devoted husband and father. He was also revered by his parents, who are still living in Detroit, and he will be sorely missed by his sisters, brothers, and a host of other relatives.

Mr. Speaker, Reverend Starghill was an incredible man, devoted to his family and dedicated to his community. He leaves behind a great legacy and I join the Camden community and the entire state of New Jersey in honoring the achievements and the life of this extraordinary man.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 2015

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 \$18,152,768,664,619.57. We've added \$7,525,891,615,706.49 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

SPRINGSPIRIT BASEBALL

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I spent a recent hot, sunny day in my district visiting a real life "Field of Dreams." SpringSpirit Baseball near Houston, Texas in Spring Branch is

providing opportunities for youth to realize their dreams through sports and mentoring.

SpringSpirit's mission is to provide safe pathways for youth to realize life opportunities through sports, education, and mentoring programs based on Christian principles. They create positive mentoring relationships between the education system and families through baseball, softball, soccer, and community programs.

It is a place that values integrity, patience, perseverance and respect for the individual.

SpringSpirit provides programs combined with the teaching of the gospel designed to grow the mind, body and soul, and they have a first-class sports training and education complex in the heart of the North Spring Branch community. They pair compassionate and caring mentors with local youth, and find life opportunities that can help participants contribute to their community and society and act as stewards for others.

Recently, I toured the facility with Executive Director John Meredith, Coach Ben Vigil and a man I like to call the "Mayor" of Spring Branch, Mr. Victor Alvarez.

I cannot express how impressed I was not only with the facility, but the passion each of these men brings to SpringSpirit Baseball. SpringSpirit grew from humble beginnings at the local Boys and Girls Club to a more than three acre state-of-the-art facility.

SpringSpirit was founded by Kenny Baldwin who after playing college baseball at Rice University and professional baseball spent many successful years in the oil and gas industry. He credits his success to strong coaches, loving mentors and faith leaders and wanted to create these same opportunities and relationships for underserved youth.

Fostering partnerships with the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation, Camp Ozark, Chapelwood United Methodist Church, Cornerstone Family Ministries, Baseball USA and Boys and Girls Club of Greater Houston among others, SpringSpirit can offer afterschool programs, summer camps, and baseball and soccer tournaments.

Among SpringSpirit's biggest fans are baseball greats Lance Berkman and Andy Pettitte. Berkman and Pettitte support SpringSpirit by serving as chairs of their annual fundraiser and if you drop by SpringSpirit at just the right time . . . you might be able to catch Lance mentoring some of the kids!

Kenny, John, and the entire staff at SpringSpirit Baseball should be commended for their selfless service to the community.

Their vision to build a superb facility, offer it to the youth of Spring Branch, and lead by example truly enriches our community and our city.

And that's just the way it is.

IN SUPPORT OF REAUTHORIZING
THE EXPORT-IMPORT BANK

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 2015

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call for the House to bring H.R. 1031, the Promoting U.S. Jobs Through Exports Act for an immediate vote. This critical legislation would reauthorize the Export-Import

Bank of the United States, our nation's official export credit agency for the next seven years.

Currently, the Ex-Im Bank's charter will expire at the end of this month if immediate action is not taken. If Congress fails to do its job, hundreds of thousands of American jobs, including over 10,000 jobs in my district in Houston and Harris County, Texas may be lost to China, Japan, and other foreign competitors if we force Ex-Im to close its doors.

The Export-Import Bank, created 80 years ago during the depths of the Great Depression, has been authorized 16 times by Congress with overwhelming bipartisan majorities and has broad support from industry and labor for the very simple fact that it works.

In the past six years, Ex-Im has supported more than 1.3 million jobs and has returned over \$2 billion in deficit-reducing profits to the U.S. Treasury while providing over \$27 billion in export credit last year alone.

Mr. Speaker, at a time when foreign competition is becoming more fierce than ever before, with nations like China using any means necessary to win contracts in overseas markets, Congress must do everything in its power to support American small businesses and working families, including the immediate, long-term reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank.

HONORING MR. LARRY FLYNN

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 11, 2015

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Larry Flynn for his contributions to the aerospace industry, General Dynamics and Gulfstream Aerospace, the largest private employer in the First District of Georgia.

Mr. Flynn's career spans 33 years, beginning in 1982 when he joined what was then known as Combs Gates and served as executive vice president and general manager. He later served as regional vice president for Signature Flight Support. His experience in managing aircraft service facilities led to his position as vice president, Location Based Services, for Stevens Aviation, where he was responsible for managing six service facilities and overseeing service on various models of corporate jets.

Mr. Flynn joined Gulfstream in 1995 as vice president and served in several key positions to include president of Product Support and senior vice president of Sales and Marketing. He became Gulfstream's president in 2011, and also served as a vice president of General Dynamics. During Mr. Flynn's tenure as president, Gulfstream achieved several significant milestones, including a seven-year, \$500 million Savannah facility expansion; the entry into service of the G280, the market-changing G650 and its extended-range variant, the G650ER; the unveiling of the G500; the announcement of the G600; the opening of the Beijing service center and the expansions of Gulfstream service centers in Brazil; London; Westfield, Massachusetts; and Brunswick, Georgia.

Mr. Flynn served on the Board of Directors of the General Aviation Manufacturers Association as chairman of the Communications