

In celebration of this important milestone, we thank all those who have served as volunteers at the Livingston Volunteer Fire Department for their commitment, dedication and bravery.

DHS HEADQUARTERS REFORM
AND IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 20, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the House Committee on Homeland Security and the Ranking Member of the Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations, I rise in support of H.R. 3572, the "Department of Homeland Security Headquarters Reform and Improvement Act of 2015."

This bill will establish DHS-wide strategic priorities for international engagement, mechanisms for monitoring resource deployment abroad, and strategic priorities and cost data for DHS programs and activities abroad.

H.R. 3572 provides support for DHS's "Unity of Effort" campaign and addresses redundancy among departmental programs.

The bill clarifies and streamlines the offices that constitute DHS Headquarters and better outlines their respective responsibilities.

Specifically, H.R. 3572 achieves these goals by:

1. Establishing an undersecretary for management and makes him or her the chief acquisition officer in the Homeland Security Department; and

2. Establishing two new offices within the department and updates the department's acquisition procedures.

Finally, the bill empowers the Inspector General to review the Department's suspension and debarment program and assess whether disparities exist in the criteria applied.

The bill addresses the need for DHS to develop strategic priorities for international engagement, establish mechanisms for monitoring resource deployment abroad, and developing strategic priorities, and collecting cost data for its programs and activities abroad.

I am pleased that H.R. 3572 incorporates several amendments that I offered during the full committee markup which improve the bill.

Jackson Lee Amendment Number 1 requires the Assistant Secretary for International Affairs to advise the Secretary of Homeland Security on strategic priorities for overseas deployment, establish a mechanism for monitoring alignment between assets, including personnel, with said priorities, and develop a standardized framework to collect and maintain cost data for overseas personnel.

Jackson Lee Amendment Number 2 made technical changes to H.R. 3572 regarding the conversion of contractor positions to Federal employee positions and requiring congressional authorization for adding any new office within the Office of Policy.

Since its creation in 2002, in the aftermath of the terrorist attack of 9/11, the Department

of Homeland Security has been, and must continue to be, ever vigilant in its activities to protect the homeland and the lives and property of Americans.

DHS faces a number of challenges, including the need for more resources, better training, better use of technology, and a constantly changing environment of homeland security threats.

H.R. 3572 is a positive step forward in this effort and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the "Department of Homeland Security Headquarters Reform and Improvement Act of 2015."

IN RECOGNITION OF ROBERT
BISHOP, ESQ., RECIPIENT OF THE
LACKAWANNA PRO BONO'S ROBERT
W. MUNLEY AWARD

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 21, 2015

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert Bishop, Esq., who will be awarded the 2015 Lackawanna Pro Bono's Attorney Robert W. Munley Award. Lackawanna Pro Bono is a non-profit organization established in 1997 to increase the availability of free legal representation for low-income individuals and families throughout Lackawanna County.

Robert has been principal of Hourigan, Kluger & Quinn, PC, since 1985. His practice specializes in estate planning and administration, as well as elder law matters, real estate transactions, business transactions, and corporate matters for clients in Luzerne, Lackawanna and surrounding counties. He is a graduate of Penn State University and Temple University School of Law.

In addition to volunteering his expertise to the Lackawanna Pro Bono, Robert is very active in the Northeastern Pennsylvania community. He is president of the Amos Lodge of B'nai B'rith, vice president of the Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce, secretary of the Jewish Home of Eastern Pennsylvania, past president of Glen Oak Country Club, past president and board member of Temple Israel of Scranton, past president of the ARC of Northeastern Pennsylvania, past president and board member of Jewish Family Services of Northeastern Pennsylvania, past president and life member of Scranton Counseling Center, past president and advisory board member of the Salvation Army Citadel in Scranton, past president and board member of the Estate Planning Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania, and a board member of the Schwartz/Mack Foundation. Robert serves on the boards of the ARC Foundation and the Amos Towers Housing Foundation and the advisory boards of the Scranton Area Foundation, the Kania School of Management at the University of Scranton, and M&T Bank. He is an emeritus member of the Penn State Worthington advisory board, and serves on the board of the Jewish Federation of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

It is an honor to recognize Robert Bishop for the great service he has done for his commu-

nity, and I extend my congratulations on being awarded the Lackawanna Pro Bono's Robert W. Munley Award. I commend Robert for all the effort he has put into making northeastern Pennsylvania a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

HONORING COMMAND SERGEANT
MAJOR ALBERT L. CAMPBELL,
U.S. ARMY, RETIRED

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 21, 2015

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Command Sergeant Major Albert L. Campbell, U.S. Army, Retired of Round Rock, Texas, as a recipient of the Texas 31st District Congressional Veteran Commendation. CSM Campbell answered the call to defend our great nation for over 30 years in the United States Army. Today he lives in Round Rock, Texas where he continues his service to his fellow countrymen as a vibrant part of this growing central Texas community.

Born in Greenwood, SC CSM Campbell left the 11th grade and entered the Army in 1950. After rigorous training at Ft. Benning, GA, he was assigned to K Company, 3rd Battalion, 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team and stationed in Japan. CSM Campbell earned the Combat Infantrymen's Badge and Bronze Star for heroism fighting in Korea.

Following his assignment in Japan and Korea, CSM Albert L. Campbell served as the Platoon Sergeant for the 2nd Platoon, Company C, 508th of the 82nd Airborne, where he was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry. CSM Campbell would continue his leadership ascension as an instructor at West Point preparatory School at Ft. Belvoir, VA, the United States Military Academy at West Point, and Howard University in Washington, DC. CSM Campbell rounded out his military service in Ft. Hood, Texas where he retired in 1980.

CSM Campbell's service and sense of duty did not end with his military service. CSM Campbell traded his guns for crosses as a Deacon at the One Way Baptist Church, in Round Rock, Texas.

Family and Service to God and Country remain at the center of his life. CSM Campbell continues his longstanding commitment to helping those in need whether physically as a caregiver or emotionally at Round Rock Independent School District's Opportunity Center, where he helps troubled children participate in the mainstream educational process.

I am stirred with the strongest sense of pride and honor as an American that I should have the opportunity to highlight the life of a true servant of the people. All should marvel and stand proud of an American who so strongly answered the call to serve.

CSM Campbell's patriotism and commitment to service reflect the very best values of both our beloved military servicemen and Central Texas. Let today be a celebration of one of our nation's heroes, one who devoted his life to keeping us free and making America a beacon of hope in the world. Along with his friends, family, and loved ones, I wish him both a happy, prosperous, and healthy life in the years ahead.

SUPPORTING THE PEOPLE OF
UKRAINE TO FREELY ELECT
THEIR GOVERNMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 20, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 348 in support of the people of Ukraine in their exercise of their self-determination to free, fair and uninterrupted elections.

As the country with the oldest and most powerful democracy in the world, the United States has supported democracy, the rule of law and human rights all over the globe from Nigeria to Pakistan to China, to name a few.

The outcome of the October 25 elections in Ukraine is at the backdrop of the forcible and illegal occupation of Crimea, ordered by President Vladimir Putin of Russia.

The rights of the people of Ukraine to free, fair and transparent elections is especially critical, with Crimea currently under siege of Russian-led separatists who continue their attacks on Ukraine's forces set in place to protect the sovereignty of Ukraine.

Here in Congress, we have worked tirelessly to support free and fair elections in Ukraine through our support of its May 2014 elections, ensuring that international standards were upheld just as we have assisted in many elections in countries in transition or fighting insecurity from Nigeria to Pakistan.

In Nigeria and Pakistan, the elections occurred at the background of terrorism from Boko Haram, Al Qaida and other terrorist networks, who acted so viciously and caused thousands of Nigerians and Pakistanis to lose their lives and livelihoods.

Similarly, the citizens of Ukraine are at risk of being disenfranchised because of separatist controlled areas.

To this end the United States has worked to broker peace in Ukraine so that the people of Ukraine can exercise their right to self-determination through our support of the cease-fire agreement brokered between Ukraine, Russia and the Russian-led separatists which was not fully implemented and the subsequent Minsk Implementation Agreement.

But I say to the people of the Ukraine, remain strong, we stand with you in exercising your Constitutional and human right to choose who will represent you.

The upcoming October 25, 2015 elections are critical for sustainable legislative and constitutional reform in Ukraine which will help promote democracy, the rule of law, upholding of human rights, the creation of security, all of which will catalyze the economic, social, cultural and political enfranchisement of the people of Ukraine, securing a bright future for the capable and exciting youth of Ukraine.

Indeed, here in Congress, we have taken numerous actions to uphold the sanctity of the right to economic, political and social enfranchisement of the people of Ukraine by passing the following legislation:

The Ukraine Freedom Support Act of 2014, authorizing the United States President to provide Ukraine's government with support necessary to set up infrastructure for reforms that will facilitate restoring Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity including lethal defense

services and articles, such as anti-tank, anti-armor and counter-artillery radar (worth \$100 million in FY 2015 and \$125 million in each of fiscal years 2016 and 2017 for such weapons); and

Sovereignty, Integrity, Democracy, and Economic Stability of Ukraine Act of 2014, which authorized loan guarantees for the Government of Ukraine.

Due to its geographical location, the Central European nation of Ukraine historically has been pushed and pulled between its neighbors with Europe to its west and Russia to its east.

This push pull from interested parties has caused conflict over the direction Ukraine would take after its independence from the former Soviet Union in 1991.

For example, in November of 2013, Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich suspended negotiations with the European Union over an agreement to integrate Ukraine into various European economic and political associations and instead accepted \$15 billion and other inducements to enter into closer ties with Moscow.

The decisions taken by President Yanukovich triggered demonstrations by thousands of Ukrainian citizens in the capital city of Kiev and throughout the country which led to numerous arrests, detentions and violent clashes, which led to the deaths of close to 100 protesters in February 2014.

In a cowardly act, President Yanukovich fled to the predominantly ethnic Russian region of Crimea in southeastern Ukraine, and then to Russia because of the chaos caused by his suspension of negotiations with the EU and the subsequent unrest that ensued, which also caused his unpopularity within his own party.

After President Yanukovich deserted his own people, an opportunistic Russian military force took up positions throughout Crimea, where, under a series of treaties that followed the dissolution of the Soviet Union, Russia had continued to maintain a series of military bases, notably at Sevastopol, where the Russian Black Sea naval fleet is based.

Indeed, Crimea itself was technically transferred from the Soviet republic of Russia to the Soviet republic of Ukraine in 1954.

Subsequently, in March 2014, Russian President Vladimir Putin signed legislation formally incorporating Crimea into Russia.

The United States and the European Union have opined that Russia's action is illegal and we have imposed a series of economic sanctions on Russia.

Russia continues to provide military equipment, training and other assistance to separatists and paramilitary forces in eastern Ukraine, resulting in an ongoing conflict with an estimated 6,000 deaths, hundreds of thousands of refugees and widespread destruction.

The Russian-led separatists in eastern Ukraine continue to refuse to implement Ukrainian law and stand in the way of the Ukrainian authorities to conduct elections in areas controlled by the separatists and hence are a stumbling block to free and fair elections in those areas.

Yet under all this stress, Ukraine continues to strive for its self-determination.

I commend all anti-corruption efforts in Ukraine.

The state Anti-Corruption Strategy Program Implementation for 2014-2017, which delineates anti-corruption reforms, persons, deadlines and infrastructure;

The creation of a National Agency for Prevention of Corruption;

The Ukrainian Law on Prevention of corruption, a new system which outlines financial control with electronic asset declaration of public servants;

The specialized Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's Office;

Corruption Offender Registry; and

Many more efforts to combat corruption and enhance the rule of law and financial integrity in Ukraine.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of this resolution protecting the rights of the people of Ukraine to freely elect their government and determine their future.

Mr. Speaker, I also urge the Administration to expedite assistance to Ukraine to facilitate the political, economic and social reforms necessary for free and fair elections that meet international standards.

The Russian government, Russian-led separatists, its agents and supporters should not interfere in Ukraine's elections, through intimidation, violence or coercion.

The current relentless political, economic and military aggression on the people of Ukraine geared at subverting the independence, self-determination and the territorial integrity of Ukraine must stop.

I urge the people of Ukraine to help facilitate free and fair elections in Ukraine.

TRIBUTE TO URBANDALE'S
WEBSTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 21, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Webster Elementary School in Urbandale, Iowa, for being selected as a National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.

In order to receive this prestigious designation, schools must demonstrate a commitment to enriching the academic experience of each and every student by closing the achievement gaps among student subgroups. Overall, 335 schools have received this designation. Urbandale's Webster Elementary School has shown that hard work, dedication, and a commitment to excellence can lead an entire school to academic success. The leaders within this school have found a formula for success by working together to improve student-teacher relationships, meeting each student and their learning styles on an individual level.

Mr. Speaker, the efforts shown by Urbandale's Webster Elementary School demonstrates Iowa's commitment to academic excellence. This award is an embodiment of the hard work and dedication every member of their faculty has displayed to improve the lives of their students. It is truly an honor to represent the students and faculty of the Webster Elementary School in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating them for their achievements, and wish each and every one of them nothing but continued success.