

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 5, 2015*

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 (S. 1356).

The agreement reached in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 was an important step towards adjusting the caps on defense and non-defense discretionary spending. It provided for more stable investments in both national security and domestic programs, and I commend President Obama and Congressional leaders for their bipartisan efforts to provide a more appropriate level of funding. The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 mitigated some of the funding concerns surrounding the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 (S. 1356) and made this an improved bill. However, the revisions in the bill did nothing to alleviate my concerns regarding detainees at Guantanamo Bay or excess military facilities.

S. 1356 still prevents the responsible transfer of detainees from Guantanamo Bay and the closure of the detention center. Instead, Guantanamo Bay will remain an extremist propaganda tool that undermines our national security. The closure of this facility is long overdue. S. 1356 also continues to ignore testimony from senior leaders in the Department of Defense, Department of the Air Force, and Department of the Army regarding the closure of surplus military facilities. An authorization of Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) is the best way to address this problem and would save money that could be invested in other national security priorities.

While I recognize that the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 provided a measure of funding stability for our Defense leaders, S. 1356 continues to include provisions that are detrimental to our national security and undermines the safety of the women and men who put themselves at risk to defend our nation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 (S. 1356).

IN HONOR OF CAPITOL BOOK & NEWS

**HON. MARTHA ROBY**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 18, 2015*

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Capitol Book & News, one of Alabama's oldest independent book stores, who will be closing their doors after 65 years of business.

Founded in 1950 by Victor Lavine, Capitol Book & News has been a staple in Mont-

gomery, Alabama's community providing books and recommendations to customers. Thomas and Cheryl Upchurch, owners for the past 37 years, are known for their trusted advice and suggestions on what books to read.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to acknowledge Capitol Book & News' positive impact on Montgomery's community and to thank them for their loyal and dedicated service to their customers.

IN RECOGNITION OF ASSEMBLY-WOMAN SHEILA Y. OLIVER

**HON. DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 18, 2015*

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my dear friend, Assemblywoman Sheila Y. Oliver. Ms. Oliver is a proud class of 1970 graduate of Weequahic High School in Newark, New Jersey. This year, she will be honored at Weequahic's 45th class reunion for her many accomplishments and contributions to her school, community, and state of New Jersey.

Ms. Oliver has served in the New Jersey General Assembly since 2004, where she represents the 34th legislative district. From January 2010 to January 2014, she served as the Speaker of the New Jersey General Assembly. She was the second woman to serve as Speaker in New Jersey history, and the second African American to hold this post.

Currently, she serves in the Assembly on the Higher Education Committee, the Labor Committee, and the Human Services Committee, as its chair. She also served on the Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders from 1996–1999.

Assemblywoman Oliver was one of the founders of the Newark Coalition for Low Income Housing, an organization that successfully sued the Newark Housing Authority and the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development in federal court to block the demolition of all publicly subsidized low-income housing in Newark, as there was no plan in place for the construction of replacement housing for low-income Newark residents. As a result, the Newark Housing Authority was directed by a federal consent order to build one-for-one replacement housing for low-income residents.

Ms. Oliver's colleagues in political and public life honored her with a place for debating and building consensus, naming the 14th floor conference room in the LeRoy F. Smith Jr. Public Safety Building the "Sheila Y. Oliver Conference Center." It is fitting that Sheila Oliver be recognized for the historic figure that she is. She understands the human condition and understands government can play an integral role in improving the lives of all people.

Ms. Oliver's leadership abilities have consistently been recognized by her peers, and she has often been described as a resource-

ful, dependable individual who is always willing to assist when needed. She attended Lincoln University and continued her education in graduate school at Columbia University. She once told a crowd of constituents that she never set out to run for office, but her conviction that government can improve lives guided her course. Congratulations to my friend, Assemblywoman Sheila Y. Oliver, on this outstanding honor.

FAIRNESS TO VETERANS FOR INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, November 16, 2015*

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the Fairness to Veterans for Infrastructure Investment Act of 2015 (H.R. 1694).

H.R. 1694 as drafted would undermine the Department of Transportation's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program to promote women- and minority-owned small businesses and provide them with the opportunity to compete for federal highway construction contracts in an equitable manner. H.R. 1694 would force women- and minority-owned small businesses into the same pool of competition with veteran-owned small businesses to the detriment of everyone the DBE program was intended to help.

The best way to help our veteran-owned small businesses is to establish a separate and specific program to achieve the aim of ensuring veteran-owned businesses receive fair consideration for federal highway contracts. That is why I am a cosponsor of H.R. 3997, which would create a Veteran-owned Business Enterprise program within the Department of Transportation. This program would guarantee that at least 10 percent of federal highway contracts go to veteran-owned small businesses. It would maximize assistance to both veteran-owned and women- and minority-owned small businesses, and would not force competition between them.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing the Fairness to Veterans for Infrastructure Investment Act of 2015 (H.R. 1694).

HONORING SISTER JOSETTE PARISI ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT AS MANAGER OF SEARLES CASTLE AFTER 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

**HON. FRANK C. GUINTA**

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 18, 2015*

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my congratulations to Sister Josette

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