

Winston's love of sports and community leadership was synthesized in the Rudolph Canzater Memorial Classic, an annual golf tournament which we started over 30 years ago and renamed for our mutual friend Rudolph Canzater. That tournament is sponsored by the James E. Clyburn Research and Scholarship Foundation to raise money for college scholarships for students in South Carolina. Thousands of young people are grateful for Winston's generosity, as am I.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in offering condolences to Winston's daughter, Alanna Thomas of Baltimore, his cousins, Wesley Ballard and Angela Dixon of Detroit, and all of the rest of his family and many friends. He will be sorely missed, but he lives on in the countless people whose lives were improved by his selfless service and loyal friendship.

PEARLAND HIGH SCHOOL INDOOR  
DRUMLINE WIN STATE TITLE

**HON. PETE OLSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 23, 2016*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Pearland High School's indoor drumline for winning the state championship.

The Pearland High School Indoor Drumline won the Scholastic Marching A Championship in the Texas Color Guard Circuit Percussion State Championship. Notably, this is the first year since 2005 that Pearland High School has had an indoor drumline. The drumline is directed by Nicholas Guiliano.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to the Pearland High School's Indoor Drumline for winning the state championship in their first year. We look forward to hearing great things from these students and are proud of them for representing Pearland so well.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND  
VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RE-  
LATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATION  
ACT, 2017

SPEECH OF

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 18, 2016*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4974) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes:

Ms. LEE. Mr. Chair, first, I want to thank Chairman DENT and Ranking Member BISHOP for their unwavering leadership of our subcommittee. As the daughter of a veteran, it is truly an honor to be serving in my second year as a member of the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Subcommittee.

The bill before us provides a total of \$81.6 billion in spending—which, thankfully, is \$1.8

billion more than current-year spending levels. Yet, this allocation falls \$1.2 billion short of the President's requested funding level. This gap undermines the promise that we've made to veterans that we would provide them with the best and most innovative care.

This, Mr. Chair, is unnecessary, shameful—and frankly—unacceptable. While there are many provisions which create spending gaps for vital services that our veterans need, I am also pleased to support other provisions.

I support the investments in military infrastructure, housing, and other services to ensure that we give our brave men and women in uniform and their families the proper respect and care they deserve. Additionally, I am pleased that these investments will also help make our military facilities greener and more energy efficient, which is vital to our planet, our national security and the department's bottom line.

I also want to thank the Chair and Ranking Member for the inclusion of report language requiring the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) to provide an updated report on claims processing at the Oakland VA Regional Office (VARO). While the Oakland VA has made significant improvements in Oakland, more work remains to ensure that veterans in my District and throughout the Bay Area are provided with quality care and timely care.

Mr. Chair, I understand the enormous sacrifices made by our service members and their families. And that's why I support language encouraging more coordination between federal agencies to help our veterans' transitioning back to civilian life find jobs. I'm also pleased this bill provides veterans greater access to education, housing and more comprehensive health and mental health services. While these are small steps, they are important ones when approximately one million veterans will be settling into American communities in the next three to five years.

Finally, Mr. Chair, I want to mention that I will join my colleagues in offering an amendment to allow VA doctors to prescribe medical cannabis to their patients in states with state-legal medical cannabis laws. Mr. Chair, the federal government shouldn't be erecting barriers between patients and their medicine. So I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting that effort.

I look forward to continue working with the subcommittee to improve quality of life for our brave service members, veterans and their families. And to work towards addressing funding deficiencies as the process moves forward—our veterans deserve nothing less.

THE PASSING OF HARRY WU

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 23, 2016*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to honor the passing of a deeply committed human rights activist and friend, Mr. Harry Wu. Harry is survived by his son, Harrison, and his former wife, Ching Lee. I offer my sincerest condolences to his family. Harry is also

mourned today by the many friends and colleagues who will remember him as a tireless and determined advocate for freedom and justice.

Harry was born into a comfortable life in Shanghai, but this life was turned upside down when the Communist Party came to power in 1949. His father lost his job and his family's possessions were taken away. In college, Harry made the mistake of criticizing the Soviet Union, and for this mistake he suffered for 19 years in the Laogai—the system of forced labor prison camps used by the Communist Party to control the Chinese people. Harry worked to expose the horrors of the Laogai. Unfortunately, a system of arbitrary detention remains in place in China today, under different names.

During his 19 year detention, Harry endured unimaginable hardship and horror. Surviving such an ordeal is itself a testament to Harry's toughness and tenacity. Harry was driven by this hardship to spend the remainder of his life fighting for the victims of Chinese Communism, exposing its abuses to the world.

After emigrating to the United States, Harry risked his freedom on multiple trips back to China to document forced labor in China's prison camps. In 1995, Harry was caught. I remember that time well, as Ching Lee worked with me and other Members of Congress to call publicly for Harry's release. The Chinese government gave Harry a show trial and then sentenced him to exile. He was never able to go home to China again.

Harry remained undaunted by his exile. He poured his time and energy into his organization, the Laogai Research Foundation, continuing to raise awareness of forced labor in China. He published several books about his own ordeal. He published the Black Series, the riveting memoirs of other survivors of the Laogai labor camps. In 2008 he opened the Laogai Museum, documenting human rights abuses in China, both past and present.

Harry was also a passionate voice against China's heinous population control policy—the "One-Child Policy" and helped this Congress expose the abuses of forced abortions and sterilizations. Harry saw clearly that the violence used to control the vital instinct of parenthood was a great crime, and a lasting black mark on Chinese history.

Until his death, Harry continued to be the conscience of this Congress. He constantly reminded Members of Congress about the abuses heaped on the Chinese people by China's leaders and predicted that U.S. trade with China would not bring political reform—sadly history has proven him correct.

As a Catholic, he was a staunch advocate for freedom of religion, and spoke out against the persecution of Tibetan Buddhists and Uyghur Muslims in China.

Harry's work lives on today even if he is no longer here with us. Because of his work, the brutal truth about the Laogai saw the light of day. Because of Harry's commitment to the truth, the stories of survivors were not silenced, but were published for the world to see.

When China eventually becomes a free nation, Harry Wu will be lauded as a hero, because he worked so hard, and so long, for freedom and for justice.