

on the Democratic Motion to Recommit H.R. 5895, and NO on Final Passage of H.R. 5895.

SUPPORTING INTEGRATION OF
FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH
CENTERS IN THE VA MISSION
ACT OF 2018

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2018

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight two important pieces of legislation that address the care of our nation's veterans. Earlier this week, President Donald Trump signed the bipartisan VA Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks, or VA MISSION Act, into law, enacting key reforms at the Department of Veterans Affairs. This bill will help us fulfill our nation's promise to veterans by increasing access to quality, timely care and benefits, while increasing accountability and transparency at the agency.

Today, the House passed an appropriations package that funds the Department of Veterans Affairs for Fiscal Year 2019, including the new VA MISSION Act. Specifically, I would like to highlight a provision included in the bill that ensures the newly created Center for Innovation for Care and Payment has the resources it needs to improve quality and access to care for our vets, while finding cost savings at the VA by cutting through bureaucratic red tape and establishing common-sense partnerships with sister agencies in the federal government.

One such partnership I hope the Center will consider exploring is the opportunity for VA Medical Centers to integrate care with Federal Qualified Health Centers, or FQHCs. Many veterans, especially those who live in rural communities, face challenges accessing care through the traditional VA system, and partnering with FQHCs that already provide quality care in local communities could be the most effective alternative for veterans facing transportation, mobility, or additional concerns with traveling to the nearest VA hospital.

With over 10,000 FQHC service sites located across the U.S., a pilot program examining the opportunity for FQHCs to work with VA Medical Centers could demonstrate the viability of this program on a larger scale. Under the VA MISSION Act, FQHCs are already designated as eligible providers, just as they have been under current law for years. The Innovation Center has the authority to conduct pilot programs studying the best way to connect veterans to the high-quality care they deserve, and measuring the impact of a potential VA-FQHC partnership will generate the critical data necessary to determine how to achieve the missions of Veterans' Choice while cutting costs at the VA.

RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE Y-12 NATIONAL SECURITY COMPLEX

HON. CHARLES J. "CHUCK" FLEISCHMANN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2018

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 75th anniversary of the Y-12 National Security Complex in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Construction of the Y-12 plant in 1943 was a vital step in winning World War II, and 75 years later, Y-12 and the NNSA still play an essential role in protecting our nation. Today, Y-12 not only helps to maintain the nation's nuclear deterrent, but provides fuel stock for the United States nuclear navy, retrieves and stores vulnerable nuclear material from around the world, and supports other essential government missions.

The Y-12 National Security Complex is an integral part of the fabric of its community and of the greater East Tennessee region. It is a powerful economic driver, with more than 6,000 full-time contractors, subcontractors, and federal employees working at the site. In addition to being a key component of the region's economy, Y-12 gives back to the Oak Ridge community, providing more than \$400,000 annually to area nonprofits and educational institutions.

On Y-12's 75th anniversary, we reflect not only on its great history, but look to its bright future. The Uranium Processing Facility, a \$6.5 billion dollar project, will transform the site by replacing outdated, legacy facilities, and during construction, create thousands of jobs and have a positive economic impact on the region. Through collaborations with labor organizations, colleges, universities, and schools, the Y-12's lead contractor, Consolidated Nuclear Security, encourages students to consider careers in trades and crafts, as well as engineering and other technical fields.

Seventy five years ago, the men and women of the Y-12 plant worked tirelessly to protect our national interests and help us win World War II, and generations on they continue to serve their nation and their community. The 75th anniversary of the Y-12 National Security Complex is an occasion to reflect on this proud history and celebrate the people of the complex for their contributions.

HONORING THE CAREER AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF PRINCIPAL JAMES P. ANTOS

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2018

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career and accomplishments of Principal James P. Antos of Brother Rice High School in Chicago. As he prepares to retire, we cannot help but admire his service and hope that his example and distinguished tenure are emulated in the future.

Jim, a local Chicagoan, has been nurturing young minds for 44 years. After deciding in his junior year of high school to become a teacher, Jim earned a B.A. in Psychology and an

M.A. in General Experimental Psychology from Illinois State University. He then began his career in education in 1974 as a psychology and history teacher. From there, he quickly expanded his duties and involved himself in student activities and recruitment, going above and beyond his core responsibilities. In 1979, Jim found his way to Brother Rice High School, where, in addition to his teaching role, he would serve as the baseball coach, Dean of Faculty, Dean of Students, and eventually Principal. His students and peers have frequently praised him, describing him as a father figure, lauding his calm and consistent leadership, and applauding his honest, caring, and compassionate demeanor. As one student recalled, Jim never forgot a name, not just in his own class, but in the entire school. This outstanding public servant has devoted his life to his students, both in the classroom and on the field.

In addition to cultivating the future of America, Jim has also stood in defense of it. He served in the U.S. Army while engaged in Vietnam where he was stationed outside of Qui Nhon at Camp Granite. Jim has not only taught history but has been a part of it—providing the students of Brother Rice with a unique perspective to our nation's story. He has also provided them with wisdom, knowledge, and direction, while helping to guide countless students through high school.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Principal James P. Antos and his accomplishments. I congratulate him on his retirement and thank him for his decades of service at Brother Rice High School.

RECOGNIZING THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AT THE PORT ANGELES MARITIME FESTIVAL

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2018

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the men and women who are serving in the United States Coast Guard on the Olympic Peninsula.

In my travels across our region, I often have the privilege of crossing paths with these outstanding professionals.

For example, I recently attended a ceremony recognizing Petty Officer Jacob Hylkema, who received the Coast Guard Medal for his actions during a storm last summer in which he risked his life to save a fisherman who had fallen overboard. His entire unit received a citation for their actions that day. Together, they rescued 9 people in a 20-hour period.

Mr. Speaker, the good work isn't just limited to one unit. Recently, the crew of the *Active* based in my hometown, Port Angeles, Washington, seized more than \$78 million in illegal drugs during a patrol near the coast of Central America. According to a report in The Peninsula Daily News, the crew seized more than three tons of illegal drugs and arrested multiple people suspected of smuggling drugs into the United States.

This kind of work makes the news, but every day the Coast Guard in our region keeps us safe and keeps our economy moving.