

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 8, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5882) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of H.R. 5882, the FY13 Legislative Branch Appropriations bill and to commend Chairmen ROGERS and CRENSHAW and Ranking Members DICKS and HONDA for working together to bring this bi-partisan legislation to the floor.

H.R. 5882 provides \$3.3 billion for operations of the House of Representatives and joint operations with the U.S. Senate. The funding level is \$34 million less than the current year and \$190 million less than requested by those offices and agencies covered by the bill. H.R. 5882 freezes funding for House operations at the current level, while increasing funds for the U.S. Capitol Police, for the Government Accountability Office—which conducts oversight investigations for the Federal government, and for the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office.

The funding provided by this measure is needed for the smooth and efficient operation of the House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate. It provides funds for phone service, for computers for postage and for every other resource necessary for the legislative branch of the American government to serve the people of the United States.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2012

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 318, I was unable to cast a vote on this amendment to the Energy and Water Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2013 due to obligations in my district. The underlying bill was a well struck balance of funding priorities, and I feel that the funding for our National Nuclear Security Administration should be maintained at appropriate levels to protect our national security.

Had I been present, I would have voted “nay.”

IN RECOGNITION OF RANDALL B. PARKER FOR HIS MERITORIOUS CIVILIAN SERVICE AWARD NOMINATION

HON. STEVE AUSTRIA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2012

Mr. AUSTRIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Randall B. Parker. I am honored to recognize Mr. Parker for his Meritorious Civilian Service Award nomination. Mr. Parker was nominated for his outstanding service as Vice Director, 88th Air Base Wing (ABW), Aeronautical Systems Center (ASC), Air Force Materiel Command (AFMC), Wright-Patterson Air Force Base (WPAFB), Ohio from 4 March 2007 to 10 March 2012.

During his service, Mr. Parker distinguished himself as an exceptional leader who guided the organization through numerous cultural and business challenges while executing a full range of personal management responsibilities. Over the course of his tenure, he prepared and developed personnel for career opportunities, provided guidance to ensure work effort and products reflected management's expectations, and spearheaded the “Grow the Force” 88th ABW Commander's initiative, focused on recruiting and developing a superior, qualified workforce, while responding to ongoing budgetary and manpower reduction driven by the office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) and Headquarters Air Force (HAF) efficiency initiatives.

Mr. Parker's expertise and experience are truly noteworthy and will be greatly missed. His outstanding performance culminates a long and distinguished career that reflects his commitment and service to our community and nation.

Thus, with great pride, I recognize Randall B. Parker for his long-term commitment to the United States Air Force and I would like to extend best wishes for the future.

HONORING HOUSE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE SUE MYRICK OF NORTH CAROLINA

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2012

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the work and leadership of one of my colleagues on the House Intelligence Committee, Representative SUE MYRICK of North Carolina.

Representative MYRICK has decided to retire from Congress and this may well be her last official vote for the Intelligence Authorization Act of FY 2013. With her retirement, we lose a dedicated committee member.

Representative MYRICK's engagement on matters of homegrown terrorism and supply

chain management and her leadership of the Subcommittee on Terrorism, HUMINT, Analysis, and Counterintelligence will be sorely missed.

As a member of the House Intelligence Committee, Representative MYRICK has consistently demonstrated a willingness to work collaboratively to ensure the intelligence community has the resources it needs while simultaneously securing the Constitutional rights of United States citizens.

It has been a pleasure and an honor to work with her on the House Intelligence Committee. She has dutifully served both her local constituents and this Nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2012

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker on rollcall No. 317, I was unable to cast a vote on this amendment to the Energy and Water Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2013 due to obligations in my district. The underlying bill was a well struck balance of funding priorities.

California, my district included, is very dependent on gasoline for its transportation needs. Without the necessary research funds, the state will not be able to develop new and better ways to fuel our cars and trucks. With nearly fifty percent of California's oil coming from the Middle East, it is crucial that we continue to research and develop our fuel resources here at home to ease our dependence on an unstable source that can drive up costs on consumers.

Had I been present, I would have voted “nay.”

IN RECOGNITION OF LEADER NANCY PELOSI'S 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Leader NANCY PELOSI's outstanding achievements during her 25 years of service as a Member of Congress. It has been a great privilege to serve alongside and learn from such a strong and effective leader.

One of the proudest moments of my career was when I was sworn into the House of Representatives by Ms. PELOSI. She has been a mentor to me, and I am continually inspired by her unwavering commitment to social and economic justice. She skillfully balances her desire for bipartisanship cooperation with faithfulness to her core beliefs, a rare talent in politics today.

Speaker PELOSI made history when she was selected as the first female Democratic Leader

● This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

of the House of Representatives in 2002 and the first female Speaker of the House in 2007. She demonstrated great skill and political savvy during her tenure as Speaker, transforming the 111th Congress into one of the most productive sessions in American history. With unmatched party unity in voting, the House of Representatives passed more landmark legislation than any Congress since the Johnson administration, addressing issues as diverse as food safety, nuclear arms treaties, and the repeal of the discriminatory "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy in the military.

Her successful stewardship of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act has provided healthcare to 32 million uninsured Americans and reformed a broken system. She backed Wall Street Reform as well as President Obama's stimulus package to protect working Americans from job loss and prevent economic collapse. Her handling of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act and the increase of minimum wage have also demonstrated her dedication to supporting pay equity in our labor force.

I would also like to take a moment to acknowledge Ms. PELOSI's many contributions to people living with HIV/AIDS. This issue has been a top priority for Ms. PELOSI since she first took her oath of office, and her work has led to significant advances over the past 25 years. By publicizing this issue, she has helped to reduce discrimination and social stigmas associated with the disease. She has also doubled the level of U.S. funding for global health initiatives during her time as Speaker. Ms. PELOSI is responsible for U.S. leadership on this issue, which has saved the lives of millions of the world's most vulnerable.

Mr. Speaker, this long list of accomplishments is a testament to Ms. PELOSI's determination, and her quarter century of service has left an indelible mark on this great institution. I am honored to serve under her leadership, and I look forward to her future accolades.

RECOGNIZING QUAD CITY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AS THE "ILLINOIS PRIMARY AIRPORT OF THE YEAR"

HON. ROBERT T. SCHILLING

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2012

Mr. SCHILLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Quad City International Airport for its selection as the "Illinois Primary Airport of the Year" at the Illinois Aviation Conference held in St. Charles, Illinois, on May 23, 2012.

Success does not come without hard work and commitment. The efforts of the employees of the Metropolitan Airport Authority, MAA, have helped the Quad City International Airport win its first "Illinois Primary Airport of the Year" award since 2004, and I applaud their dedication.

The improvements to the airport's infrastructure over the past several months and years due to partnerships with the Division of Aeronautics and the Federal Aviation Administration have been excellent and contributed to the winning of this award.

I frequently use the Quad City International Airport and am excited as the airport con-

tinues to make improvements and pursue excellence. I am pleased to see that this progress has been recognized state-wide by the Illinois Aviation Conference. I congratulate the Quad City International Airport on this much-deserved achievement and look forward to traveling to and from this site in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2012

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 316, I was unable to cast a vote on this amendment to the Energy and Water Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2013 due to obligations in my district. The underlying bill was a well struck balance of funding priorities.

California, my district included, is very dependent on gasoline for its transportation needs. Without the necessary research funds, the state will not be able to develop new and better ways to fuel our cars and trucks. With nearly fifty percent of California's oil coming from the Middle East, it is crucial that we continue to research and develop our fuel resources here at home to ease our dependence on an unstable source that can drive up costs on consumers.

Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

THE ANNIVERSARY OF FLAG DAY IN HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2012

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Flag Day, a national celebration of our country and its freedoms, which was originally conceived in Hartford, Connecticut.

The concept for a "Flag Day", a commemoration of the 1777 establishment of our national flag, originated in Hartford shortly after the start of the Civil War when Hartford resident Jonathan Morris imagined Flag Day as an opportunity to promote the idea of a strong union in the face of the growing conflict. He felt that engendering pride in our most potent and patriotic symbol of unity might serve as a reminder of the sacrifices borne by prior Americans to establish the country, and restore a sense of respect for the national government in Washington.

Mr. Morris related his idea to Charles Dudley Warner, editor of the Hartford Evening Press, who was impressed by the idea and wrote an editorial calling for two new national holidays, Flag Day and Constitution Day. On June 14th, 1861, with the country two months into the Civil War and with troops mustering in downtown Hartford, residents of Connecticut followed his lead and organized the first celebration to honor our flag, and all that it stood for.

After the success of the 1861 celebrations in Hartford, Jonathan Morris asked Congressman Dwight Loomis, representing the First District of Connecticut in the U.S. House of

Representatives, to introduce a resolution recommending that the people of the United States observe June 14th and September 17th as national holidays, honoring the American Flag and the Constitution. Unfortunately, the Congressional Resolution was laid on the table and never came up again.

However, presumably also at the request of Mr. Morris, Connecticut State Senator Henry Welch introduced an identical Resolution in the General Assembly, which passed the Senate on June 6, 1862, and passed the House on June 17, 1862, recommending that the citizens of Connecticut observe June 14th and September 17th as Flag Day and Constitution Day, making Connecticut the first State to do so.

Whether it was helping to lay the foundation for the United States Constitution, or being the home to distinguished citizens such as Mark Twain, Harriet Beecher Stowe, and Samuel Colt, Hartford's history has forever been interwoven with that of our great country. Given that the city of Hartford has played such a historic role in shaping the United States, it is no surprise that the idea of Flag Day originated there.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 6, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5855) making appropriations for Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes:

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Chair, as we complete consideration of H.R. 5855, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations bill which funds the United States Coast Guard, I rise to share with my colleagues another example of why it remains one of our most important and efficient federal agencies.

Just last month, the crew of USCGC *Resolute*, based in Sector St. Petersburg, Florida which I have the privilege to represent, intercepted shipments of cocaine in the Caribbean valued at \$135 million.

The interdictions occurred during a two-month period and were a direct result of Operation Martillo, a U.S., European, and Western Hemisphere effort to target illicit trafficking routes on Central American coasts. On May 31, 2012, *Resolute* returned to St. Petersburg after an eight-week deployment in the Western Caribbean in support of counter-narcotics and search and rescue operations with the 168 bales of cocaine.

Sector St. Petersburg has proudly served our community, the Gulf Coast and our nation since 1924. It is one of the Coast Guard's largest commands, patrolling over 370 nautical miles of Florida's coastline. The west coast's vulnerability to smuggling unwanted goods and drugs makes it a critical sector and point of interest for our nation. Coast Guard Sector St. Petersburg's chief operational duties include Search and Rescue, Maritime Homeland Security, Law Enforcement, and Waterways

Management. The men and women of *Resolute* and Sector St. Petersburg continue to do an outstanding job of defending our coastline, patrolling our fisheries, and providing life-saving search and rescue operations throughout the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean.

Mr. Chair, it is a great honor to be the only member of this House to represent four separate and distinct Coast Guard operations: Sector St. Petersburg, Air State Clearwater, Search and Rescue Station Sand Key, and Port Security Unit 307. Each carries out a vital mission to protect our nation and its men and women serve here and aboard to fulfill these critical responsibilities. With the passage of this appropriations bill tonight, we provide the Coast Guard with the equipment and resources it needs to undertake its training and missions safely. Please join me in saying congratulations to the crew of USCGC *Resolute*, the members of Sector St. Petersburg, and all the Coasties who serve our great nation in uniform for a job well done.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2012

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 315, I was unable to cast a vote on this amendment to the Energy and Water Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2013 due to obligations in my district. The underlying bill was a well struck balance of funding priorities.

The United States needs to have an all-of-the-above energy approach that will meet the demand of our growing country. Nuclear energy should continue to be an aspect of our energy production and we should continue to research the capabilities and our practices surrounding the use of nuclear energy to ensure that we are as efficient and safe in our nuclear energy sector as possible.

The United States has a proven supply of resources for domestic energy use, and we should be pursuing policies that allow us to develop those resources. Nuclear energy is a renewable source with a high power generation potential.

Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

THE FLOOD PROTECTION PUBLIC SAFETY ACT OF 2012

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2012

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, Sacramento's flood risk is well documented. It is the most at-risk metropolitan area for major flooding in our nation. It is home to California's State Capitol, an international airport, and half a million people. If Sacramento were to flood the economic damages could reach up to \$40 billion dollars.

A critical component for protecting Sacramento from a disaster is the Natomas Levee Improvement Project. Local taxpayers have

voted to tax themselves on two separate occasions to pay for this project. Moreover, in the absence of federal participation, the state and local governments have already completed 18 miles of levee improvements and will have spent upwards of \$350 million on the project by the end of this year.

The federal government has not been able to support this crucial flood protection project, because of the current ban on earmarks and this Congress's challenges in investing in our nation's infrastructure. The result of this is that construction is expected to stop this year leaving 100,000 of my constituents at risk.

While I realize and appreciate that the authorization of Army Corps of Engineers projects is not within the purview of the Appropriations Committee, the topic is nonetheless important to raise. The underlying problem is the absolute prohibition against "earmarks" our Majority has imposed on this body, which is impeding our ability to our job. This moratorium has resulted in the stopping routine authorizing legislation our constituents badly need: a new Water Resources Development Act bill. Working with the Corps of Engineers, we have accomplished every conceivable review, documentation and approval requirement for this project to go forward, but Congress has still yet to act on the legislation necessary to move forward with these badly needed projects.

The completed Chief's Report for this project was sent to Congress by the Corps over a year ago yet no action has taken place. One hundred thousand people, an international airport, hundreds of small businesses, a number of schools remain at risk. It is my sincere hope our Majority will reexamine its current moratorium to ensure local needs can be met. Everyone can agree that we must bring an end to wasteful, unjustified projects. But in our effort to throw out the wasteful, we've also thrown out the very worthy, and people's lives and livelihood are in jeopardy.

To address the unjustified yet real prohibition resulting from the "earmark" label, I introduced legislation last month that is in full compliance with the House's rules: H.R. 4353, the "Flood Protection Public Safety Act of 2012." This bill authorizes flood protection projects that have a completed Army Corps of Engineers Chief's Report that have been sent to Congress for approval. The bill would allow a small number of flood protection projects across the nation to move forward including those in Sacramento, Topeka, Cedar Rapids, and North Dakota.

Congress faces a choice. Invest in our infrastructure today, or pay the price of recovering from a disaster tomorrow. We can all agree that preventing a disaster is a much wiser and cheaper solution.

Though an authorization is outside the scope of the bill pending before us, I ask that this body forge a responsible, sensible policy on so-called earmarks, a policy that continues to stop wasteful projects but allows and even promotes worthwhile initiatives.

For 200 years the federal government has been a partner with the states to provide for the public's safety. I urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to revise the current moratorium that is preventing Congress from responding to urgent public safety needs across the nation. I believe these matters are

integral to the House of Representatives as a body and deserve each of our attention.

I have written to the House's leadership urging them to revise this body's rules and provided responsible ways to ensure taxpayer money is protected, while allowing fully vetted projects to move forward.

I look forward to working with you and our colleagues in the House in a bipartisan manner to address responsible reforms that will ensure critical public safety challenges are met, while ensuring taxpayer money is being spent wisely. It is my hope we can responsibly resolve this issue in a timely manner.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2012

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 345, I was unavoidably detained and was not present to cast my vote due to other obligations.

Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

HEALTH CARE COST REDUCTION ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN C. CARNEY, JR.

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 7, 2012

Mr. CARNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my thoughts about the tax on medical devices.

The House voted on H.R. 436, the Health Care Cost Reduction Act of 2012. This bill would have repealed the 2.3 percent tax on medical devices that was instituted to pay for the Affordable Care Act. While I did not support H.R. 436, I recognize that medical device makers are at the forefront of innovation and that Federal legislation should support those efforts. I am concerned about the impact that the medical device tax will have on American jobs. Particularly during these difficult economic times, I believe we must do everything we can to encourage, not stifle, job creation.

I believe the Affordable Care Act will provide critical health care coverage to millions of Americans, and I also believe that paying for it responsibly is important. I did not support H.R. 436 because I do not believe that Americans already struggling to afford the cost of healthcare coverage should bear the burden of eliminating this tax. Moreover, I believe we should refrain from making significant changes to the funding structure of the Affordable Care Act until the Supreme Court has rendered its decision on the constitutionality of the law. At that time, the House should revisit repealing the medical device tax with an offset that protects American families while being fiscally responsible.

IN RECOGNITION OF MAJOR GENERAL EDWARD J. MECHENBIER FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

HON. STEVE AUSTRIA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2012

Mr. AUSTRIA. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of Ohio's Seventh Congressional District, I am honored to recognize Major General Edward J. Mechenbier for his outstanding career in the United States Air Force, his leadership to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, and his heroic acts for our Nation.

A graduate from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1964, General Mechenbier attended pilot training and served tours in Europe and Southeast Asia flying the F-4C. In June 1967, he was shot down on his 80th mission over North Vietnam and spent 5 years, 8 months, and 4 days as a prisoner of war. On 29 May of 2004, he flew his final flight, returning to Hanoi on the same aircraft to bring home the remains of two servicemembers listed as missing in action.

In 1973, he was assigned to the Fighter Branch, 4950th Test Wing, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. In 1975 he resigned his regular commission and continued to fly the F-100 and A-7 for 16 years with the Ohio National Guard. In 1991, General Mechenbier transferred to the Air Force Reserve where he served with the Joint Logistics Systems Center and Headquarters Air Force Materiel Command.

General Mechenbier has more than four decades of active-duty, Guard and Reserve service. Throughout his service he has been awarded two Silver Stars, two Distinguished Flying Crosses, the Bronze star with V, two Purple Hearts, Meritorious Service Medal, 9 Air medals and the P.O.W. medal.

Major General Mechenbier, the Air Force's last serving Vietnam-era former prisoner of war, retired in June of 2004. He served as the mobilization assistant to the Commander, Headquarters Air Force Materiel Command, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. His outstanding performance culminates a long and distinguished career that reflects his dedication and service to our community and Nation.

Thus, with great pride, I recognize Major General Ed Mechenbier for his commendable service to the citizens of the United States and his long-term commitment to the United States Air Force. I join the people of Ohio's Seventh Congressional District in extending my great appreciation for his service and success in all future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2012

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to have it noted in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD that I was not able to be in Washington on June 8, 2012 for votes because of a family emergency. If I had been here, I would have voted as follows:

On the Gosar Amendment that reduces the budget for the Botanic Garden by \$1,235,000 for fiscal year 2013, I would have voted "no."

On the Broun Amendment that reduces funding for the Congressional Research Service by \$878,000 (FY 2012 Level) and transfer \$878,000 to the spending reduction account, I would have voted "no."

On the Scalise Amendment that reduces by \$1,000,000 the amount provided for the Open World Leadership Center and directs that \$1,000,000 to the spending reduction account, I would have voted "aye."

On the Moran/Welch/Pingree Amendment that prohibits the use of Styrofoam products in food service facilities in the House of Representatives, I would have voted "no."

On the Flake Amendment that prohibits funding for the purchase of paid online advertisements by Members, committees, and leadership offices, I would have voted "aye."

On the Democratic Motion to Recommit H.R. 5882 that would cut by 10 percent the official franked mail component of the Member's Representational Allowance, I would have voted "aye."

On Final Passage of H.R. 5882, Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2013, I would have voted "no."

Finally, on the Republican Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 4348, offered by Mr. BROUN of Georgia, that would instruct House conferees to insist on provisions that limit funding out of the Highway Trust Fund (including the Mass Transit Account) for Federal aid highway and transit programs to amounts that do not exceed \$37,500,000,000 for FY 2013, I would have voted "no."

HONORING HOUSE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE DAN BOREN OF OKLAHOMA

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2012

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the work and lead-

ership of one of my colleagues on the House Intelligence Committee Representative DAN BOREN of Oklahoma. Representative BOREN's support for educational matters and intelligence issues pertaining to the continent of Africa has been critical to the work of the committee. Representative BOREN immediately began offering new and fresh ideas on intelligence, including suggesting the institution of a financial reward to incentivize efforts to capture Usama bin Laden. He personally worked to enhance the Boren Foreign Language Scholarship program initially established by his father, Senator David L. Boren.

Representative BOREN's assistance during the Intelligence Committee's drafting and passage of the Cyber Information Sharing and Protection Act was critical to our success. I always knew I could count on him for good counsel and support. While his retirement will create a vacancy on the Subcommittee on Terrorism, HUMINT, Analysis, and Counterintelligence, his service has made our committee and country better.

As members of the House Intelligence Committee, Representative BOREN has consistently demonstrated a willingness to work collaboratively to ensure the intelligence community has the resources it needs while simultaneously securing the constitutional rights of United States citizens.

It has been a pleasure and an honor to work with him on the House Intelligence Committee. He has dutifully served both his local constituents and this nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2012

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 371, I was unable to cast a vote on the Gosar amendment to the Legislative Branch Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2013 (H.R. 5882) because I was unavoidably detained at a memorial for a fallen peace officer.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall No. 371, to reduce funding for the U.S. Botanical Gardens by \$1.235 million.