

tools and authorities to reduce its energy demand while improving military readiness. It bolsters our defense against cyber attacks. It requires independent assessments of the National Nuclear Security Administration modernization plan and of the annual budget request for sustaining a strong deterrent. It aligns the Navy's long term shipbuilding plan with the QDR. And, it includes significant acquisition reform, the Improve Acquisition Act of 2010, which could save as much as \$135 billion over the next 5 years. That is just a sampling of the good work done in this bill.

I ask the House to support the men and women of the armed forces by passing this bill by unanimous consent, and ensure that the National Defense Authorization Act finally becomes law.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, H.R. 6523 is a strong bill that is intended to provide essential funding for our nation's troops, including providing our brave men and women in uniform the tools they need to succeed in our nation's missions in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise to express my concerns about the Senate Amendment to H.R. 6523, the Ike Skelton National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011. The Senate amendment struck Title XVII of the underlying bill, once again, denying the people of Guam the promise of closure and justice on the matter of Guam War Claims.

The text of Title XVII was a compromise that eliminated payments to descendants of survivors of the brutal occupation that were subjected to personal injury. I support that compromise; in fact, I am an original co-sponsor of H.R. 44, the Guam World War II Loyalty Recognition Act. It is important that we bring closure to this long standing injustice for the people of Guam. It is even more important given that the realignment of Marines from Okinawa to Guam will begin in earnest over the coming year.

I have travelled to Guam on a number of occasions and have been so impressed by the patriotism of the people led by Governor Felix Camacho and First Lady Joann Camacho, and I recognize the importance of this legislation to the Chamorro people. I look forward to working with Congresswoman MADELEINE BORDALLO and Incoming Chairman Congressman BUCK MCKEON, incoming Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, to address this matter in next year's defense authorization bill. It is time to finally bring closure to this long standing matter for the people of Guam which is so strategic for our nation's defense and where America's day begins. I appreciate the tireless efforts of Congresswoman MADELEINE BORDALLO's service for the people of Guam.

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I withdraw my reservation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Missouri?

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### SAYING GOOD-BYE TO FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES

(Mr. YARMUTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to say good-bye to some dear friends and colleagues. Four years ago, we arrived in this body, over 40 of us, and we were called the majority makers because we had brought control of the House back to the Democrats. And now 18 of us are leaving for other endeavors. They have become more than colleagues and Members and great Americans, they have become part of a family.

So I salute BARON HILL, PAUL HODES, JOHN HALL, CAROL SHEA-PORTER, PATRICK MURPHY, RON KLEIN, STEVE KAGEN, JOE SESTAK, BRAD ELLSWORTH, CHARLIE WILSON, CHRIS CARNEY, ZACK SPACE, HARRY MITCHELL, MIKE ARCURI, PHIL HARE, BILL FOSTER, TRAVIS CHILDERS, and CIRO RODRIGUEZ. Although their faces will not appear in this body, at least on a frequent basis, the memories and the legacy that they have left will live on forever.

#### THE RUMP CONGRESS

(Mr. McCLINTOCK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, this lame duck session is rapidly descending into farce. I believe the House is now in danger of becoming a caricature of everything the American people rejected in November: incompetence, arrogance, and a complete detachment from reality.

Nearly 2 months ago, the American people said very clearly they don't want this Congress legislating for them any longer. And instead of graciously and humbly accepting the public's verdict, the Democratic leaders seem intent to thumb their nose at the American people.

Perhaps the most bitter indictment of a malingering legislative body was delivered by Cromwell to the Rump Parliament. His words seem appropriate now to this rump Congress:

"You have sat here too long for any good you have been doing. It is not fit that you should sit here any longer. You shall now give way to better men. Now depart and go, I say, in the name of God, go."

#### CELEBRATING THE 111TH CONGRESS

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, today does end the 111th Congress, which Norm Ornstein, one of the most respected historians and observers of public events, said was the most historic and productive Congress since 1965.

I am proud to have been a Member of this 111th Congress that gave us health care, which this country yearned for for over 100 years; that saved us from the precipice of economic decline with the stimulus act that has done much good for this country and saved us

from a great depression; that gave us the Lilly Ledbetter law for women who were discriminated against in the workplace; that gave us Don't Ask, Don't Tell; that also gave us credit card reform, student loan reform, additional Pell Grants, tobacco regulations, and food safety legislation.

This 111th Congress did more than any Congress since Lyndon Johnson's in 1965 to 1966, and did it under the effective, passionate, honest, and remarkable leadership of the most historic Speaker in the House of Representatives' history, the Honorable NANCY PELOSI, who I am proud to have voted for and served with.

#### CONGRATULATING LADY NITTANY LIONS VOLLEYBALL TEAM

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, the Lady Nittany Lions volleyball team went to Kansas City on Saturday, December 18, and brought home a terrific and unprecedented Christmas present to their school, Penn State University. They won their fourth straight NCAA Division I championship.

While the team was undefeated in their previous two seasons, they were 32-5 going into the championship this year, and the California Golden Bears went into the match with a 30-4 season. The two teams have dominated the championships, meeting for 4 consecutive years in the regionals, semis or finals.

This was Coach Russ Rose's fifth championship, and the ladies celebrated by giving their coach a ring for his thumb. He is the first coach in NCAA Division I women's volleyball history to win five national titles.

The most outstanding player was Deja McClendon. Blair Brown summed up the feelings of the team in this quote:

"We're thrilled to have four national championships, but the legacy we want to leave is the program's history, I guess. It's the tradition of working hard every day in practice and going hard, because that's how you get here."

Congratulations to the team, the coach, and the school for this outstanding record.

#### PASS THE 9/11 FIRST RESPONDERS BILL

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. This is my country! Land of my birth!

This is my country! Grandest on Earth!

I pledge thee my allegiance, America, the bold,

For this is my country to have and to hold.