

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4546,  
BOB STUMP NATIONAL DEFENSE  
AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FIS-  
CAL YEAR 2003

SPEECH OF

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 12, 2002*

Mr. JEFF MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise reluctantly today on the Conference Committee report for the Fiscal Year 2003 Defense Authorization.

The House of Representatives sent to the Conference concurrent receipt provisions that were a solution to the problem of the nearly 15 million veterans and their families in this Nation. Last night, after 40 minutes of debate, the House adopted a version of the report that will aid merely 33,500 of our military retirees who suffer from a combat-related disability.

While I appreciate Chairman HUNTER's efforts to keep some language in the conference report, I am left to wonder: what have we done for the other 14,966,500 servicemen and women who have stood behind this great Nation?

We had the support and votes of over 400 Members of this House and funding in this year's budget to solve this seemingly unsolvable problem. When are we going to put our money where our mouths are?

Adding insult to injury, the concurrent receipt provisions are confusing and complicated. Deserving or not, approved or not, claimants will inundate the Department of Defense, causing further delays and postponements in an already backlogged system. We may very well end up losing more Federal dollars in a drawn-out claims process than will reach our retirees in payments due to these vague eligibility provisions.

I have the greatest respect for BOB STUMP, for whom this legislation is appropriately named. He has been a tireless advocate for America's Uniformed Services, and an invaluable mentor to me. And while this is a first step on the road to improved compensation for our veterans, I was unable to sign this conference report. We have just sent a message to the men and women that defend our freedoms that I cannot support. That message is this: 20 years or more of honorable military service is enough to warrant receipt of military retirement pay only if you are injured in combat.

Mr. Speaker, we must pledge now to provide for the welfare of veterans who have contributed in every capacity to the defense of our Nation.

The remainder of this legislation is a cumulative statement on how this Congress views its armed forces. Our vote sends a clear message to our men and women in uniform that we support your efforts and appreciate your sacrifice to defend this great Nation.

Of the total \$355.1 billion, \$93.6 billion (\$11.5 billion over fiscal year 2002) supports the budget request for 1.4 million active duty and 864,558 guard and reserve personnel; it fully funds the pay raise of 4.1 percent and adds \$110 million over the budget for enhanced force structure for B-52 squadrons, and Guard and Reserve full time support personnel.

The Navy, of particular interest to Northwest Florida, will receive \$3.2 billion for 46 Navy F/

A-18 E/F fighters, including an additional \$120 million over the budget request for 2 additional aircraft. The appropriation will also provide \$4.0 billion for 23 F-22 fighters and \$3.5 billion for continued development of the multi-service Joint Strike Fighter.

Defense health programs are funded at \$14.8 billion with \$7.7 billion going towards Tricare for Life, post-65 military retirement medical care.

Additionally, I am happy to see \$26 million for the Joint Primary Aircraft Training System or JPATS. JPATS brings Naval aviation training into the 21st century by providing student aviators with glass cockpits and ejection seats, a more realistic training, for a more realistic age of war fighting.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is progressive, reflective of Congress and goes a long way in supporting our men and women in uniform.

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SPEECH OF

**HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 12, 2002*

Mr. McKEON Mr. Speaker, I would like to first thank House Armed Services Committee Chairman BOB STUMP for whom this bill is named. It has been a great privilege to serve on the committee with Chairman STUMP. He has served his country with distinction in a number of capacities. From the time he concealed his age to be eligible to join the fight during World War II to his patriotic leadership in the HASC, Chairman STUMP had exemplified bravery, integrity and honor. Truly, he has been a role model for all Americans.

Post September 11, Americans are painfully aware of the need to equip our military with not only the tools, but also the training vital to securing and preserving freedom at home and abroad. I strongly support H.R. 4546 because this bill is an aggressive plan to provide our men and women in uniform with the best in both training and equipment.

Furthermore, H.R. 4546 honors those who protect our freedoms each day. It is unfair and unpatriotic to ask the men and women of the armed services to perform one of the most difficult and more important jobs without compensating them fairly. I am extremely pleased that the defense reauthorization act includes a 4.1 percent military pay raise.

This legislation marks a critical point for the United States in the war on terror. For over a decade the U.S. military has suffered the blows of defense budget cuts. I support H.R. 4546, which including the President's goal to increase funding and to repair the damage caused by these cutbacks.

IN HONOR OF ZLAKET FAMILY  
BUSINESS

**HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 14, 2002*

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Zlaket Family of Garden Grove for 75 years of service to their community.

In 1927, Leo and Mary Zlaket decided to open a general store, selling bulk items to farm housewives, like flour and sugar, as well as fabric to sew clothes for their families. Chickens were sold whole, without the modern day pre-packaging.

Today, the Zlaket market caters to the fast-paced and busy community of Garden Grove by selling specialty and gourmet items. However, they still maintain their old world charm by selling "Moms Cakes" baked by 81-year-old mom Kay Roman, who wakes up early each morning to bake her delicious creations.

I am very proud of the Zlaket family for sustaining a business over 75 years through events like World War II and the Great Depression. Their dedication to their community, their business, and their family is to be commended.

IN RECOGNITION OF DOUGLAS H.  
DITTRICK

**HON. MARGE ROUKEMA**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 14, 2002*

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate an outstanding member of our community and northern New Jersey—Douglas H. Dittrick, who on November 18, 2002, will be honored by the Northern New Jersey Council of the Boy Scouts of America as one of 2002's "Good Scouts." I am privileged to know Doug as a constituent, a counselor, and, most important, a valued friend.

Mr. Speaker, it is impossible to list all of the contributions Doug has made to New Jersey as a businessman, as a civic leader, and as a philanthropist. Doug is an outstanding example of the type of person who makes Bergen County, our State, and our Nation such a wonderful place.

As President and CEO of Douglas Communications Corporation II, Doug has been a leader and pioneer in the telecommunications industry for more than twenty-five years. He has served as Chairman of the National Cable Television Association, and has been honored as Executive of the Year by Cable Television Business magazine. Doug is a recipient of the NCTA's Vanguard Award for outstanding contribution to cable television, and has been a champion of the telecommunications industry for decades.

Equally important, Doug has been a leader in innumerable charities and civic institutions within and outside of New Jersey. In my own district, he has chaired the Valley Health System and served as chairman of the board of the Valley Hospital's Board of Trustees. He has been actively involved in the leadership of the American and National Red Cross on both the state and national level. In my hometown

of Ridgewood, Doug served with distinction on the town's Board of Education for almost a decade, and as President of the Board for five years. At the same time, Doug has shown deep devotion to his alma mater, Ohio Wesleyan University, having served as President and as an active member of the University's Alumni Association, and currently serving as Chairman of the University's Board of Trustees.

Above all, Doug has shown a keen interest in Scouting, and the values it instills in our young people. Doug has served as Chair of the Ridgewood-Glen Rock District of the Boy Scouts of America, and presently serves both as Vice President-Finance for the Northern New Jersey Council of the Boy Scouts, and Executive Vice President of the Northeastern Region. In 1997, Doug was the recipient of the BSA's prestigious Silver Beaver award in recognition of all that he has contributed to Scouting.

In gratitude for all that Doug has given to the Boy Scouts of America, the Northern New Jersey Council of the Boy Scouts this year will honor Doug with its "Good Scout" award. Doug's well-justified pride in this honor is shared by his wife Barbara, their three daughters, and indeed, all of the New Jersey Scouting community.

Mr. Speaker, through his good works, Douglas H. Dittrick exemplifies the American values that have made our country great, and truly gives meaning to the term "pillar of the community." I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Doug on his achievements, and thanking and saluting him for his dedication and contribution to so many members of our New Jersey community.

HONORING SIDNEY "SID" M. OMAN  
ON HIS TEN YEARS OF SERVICE  
AS HOST OF WCTV-48'S SOUND-  
ING BOARD PROGRAM

**HON. J. RANDY FORBES**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 14, 2002*

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor a patriot and pioneer in public television. Sidney "Sid" M. Oman has given ten years of service as host of the weekly public affairs talk show, "Sounding Board", on the City of Chesapeake's cable channel, WCTV-48.

Each week, Sid highlights hot topics in politics, current events, and other news that impact the residents of the Chesapeake community. He invites state and local leaders to talk about important issues, and share their thoughts with the community in an objective forum.

Sid and his "Sounding Board" have a long history together. From 1960-1964, he hosted the original "Sounding Board" on WAVY TV-10 in Hampton Roads, Virginia. From the beginning, the show featured people in local, state, and national politics and government, as well as those in the arts and media.

Sid has been serving his community in a variety of capacities for many decades. He

began his career of service as public relations chief for the City of Norfolk, and served five years as executive director of the Norfolk's International Azalea Festival, an annual celebration that salutes NATO member nations.

Sid's love of politics eventually persuaded him into public office. Sid served as a three-time mayor of Chesapeake, Virginia, and a one-time mayor of Elizabeth City, North Carolina. During these years of service, Sid continued to host weekly public television segments and call-in radio programs where citizens phoned in with questions and comments.

After ten years with WCTV, Sid Oman still holds a strong commitment to educating and providing information to the public. He and his wife, Lillian, are both well-respected and much-loved members of the Chesapeake community.

When not hosting "Sounding Board", Sid oversees his successful funeral business. In spring of 1964, Sid himself planned and coordinated the funeral of General Douglas MacArthur. Again—Sid's commitment to serving and honoring others has been an outstanding and lifelong pursuit.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Sid Oman, for his years of service to WCTV, to Chesapeake, and to the Commonwealth of Virginia.

CONGRATULATING KATARZYNA  
SZOTYNSKA, SAILING CHAMPION

**HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 14, 2002*

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Katarzyna Szotynska, a young woman from Warsaw, Poland, who was the recent winner of the World Laser Radial championships which was held in the greater Buffalo area at the Buffalo Canoe Club in nearby Ontario, Canada.

Ms. Szotynska is also the 2002 Silver medalist in the 3rd World Sailing Games in Marseille, France, and was the Gold Medal winner in the World Laser Radial Championships in Spain and Turkey in 2001 and 2000, respectively.

Katarzyna Szotynska was born in Poland and is studying culture at Warsaw University. She has been sailing Laser Radials for eight years. Ms. Szotynska is the first woman in the world to win three consecutive world championships in Laser Radials class. She is the most accomplished woman sailor in Polish history.

I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Katarzyna Szotynska on her accomplishments.

IN HONOR OF ANDREW SAAVEDRA  
FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE CITY  
OF SANTA ANA

**HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 14, 2002*

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Andrew Saavedra for his service to the

city of Santa Ana. Andrew was recently awarded the Rosita Diaz "love in Action" award from the Loyola Institute for Spirituality for his hard work and dedication to the community.

Sixteen years ago, Andrew started a soup kitchen at St. Joseph Catholic Church. When it first opened, the kitchen served only a handful of people. Today, the kitchen has expanded and now serves over 600 each week.

Andrew has also helped to establish citizenship and English classes in Santa Ana to help immigrants in the community to become a part of the Democratic process.

I am very proud of Andrew and appreciate his service to the citizens of Santa Ana.

DEAN STRATTON: A HUNTER'S  
LIFE

**HON. JAMES A. BARCIA**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 14, 2002*

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend and fellow bow hunter, Dean Stratton of Rhodes, Michigan, in acknowledgment and appreciation for his entrepreneurial spirit and long-time commitment to promoting advanced hunting techniques in Michigan and nationwide.

Dean and I share a love of hunting and the great outdoors. I have enormous respect and admiration for him as a hunter and as a businessman who turned his \$100 investment into the biggest commercial game call business in the state. His family-owned business, Stratton Outdoor Products, along with Stratton Deer Farm, stand as models for other small business owners pursuing their own versions of the American Dream.

Over the years, Dean has used his own passion for hunting to help countless others discover the thrills and satisfaction on the sport. A native of Bay City, Dean pioneered the development of deer calls and was the first businessman in the state to sell deer and game calls commercially. He made his discovery by observing how deer communicate. He then used that knowledge to transform a duck call into a prototype for luring deer. Dean's deer calls are now widely used by hunters throughout the country.

In addition to marketing his innovative, hand-made products to hunters and hunting outlets across the country, Dean also has successfully harvested trophy-class whitetail deer and wild turkey for many years. Always willing to share his expertise on deer and turkey behavior and on some of the advanced hunting techniques he has developed, Dean has conducted seminars and clinics to pass on his knowledge to others. He also is an accomplished author, photographer and radio talk show host. Dean credits his wife, Cheryl Ann, and their sons, Christopher, Jason and Adam, with allowing him to pursue and achieve his dreams.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dean Stratton for his many contributions to hunting. He is indeed a straight shooter and a strong advocate for hunters and outdoor enthusiasts across this great land and throughout the world.