

over 650 branches, managing over \$50 billion in assets and employing over 13,000 people.

While his financial accomplishments have been quite significant, his commitment to building a better Buffalo region has been equally profound. Last year Mr. Wilmers and his wife, Elizabeth, were recognized by the United Way of Buffalo & Erie County for corporate and personal donations to a number of local charities including: the Buffalo Zoo, the Darwin Martin House, Shea's Performing Arts Center, the Albright-Knox Art Gallery and the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra.

Mr. Wilmers has also taken a special interest in building a better future for Buffalo children through promoting education. This focus has involved contributing to enhancements at Buffalo Public School No. 68—Westminster Community Charter School and helping sponsor the search for a new superintendent for the Buffalo Public School System.

Furthermore, Mr. Wilmers has lent his financial skills to the Buffalo Fiscal Stability Board, the Buffalo Niagara Partnership, and a business leaders association called the "Group of 18."

While Mr. Wilmers will continue to be involved professionally at M&T Bank, after over two decades of success, he has decided to relinquish his position as President and CEO of the Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and gratitude I stand here today to recognize Robert Wilmers, a man who has dedicated his life to economic, community and social development. On behalf of the residents of Buffalo and Western New York, we are grateful for your enduring commitment to this area and wish you health and happiness in your new semi-retirement role.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT
FINANCING, AND RELATED PRO-
GRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT,
2006

SPEECH OF

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 28, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House in the State of the Union and under consideration the bill (H.R. 3057) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes:

Mr. STARK. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the Foreign Operations Appropriations Act for FY 2006.

The United States should be the world's leading peace broker rather than its largest arms dealer. Unfortunately, about one-quarter, or about \$5 billion, of the funding for this foreign operations appropriations bill is direct military aid and more than \$2.5 billion are "Economic Support Funds," which are often used for security operations. Supplying so many weapons to other nations does more to promote war than it does to enable peace.

To be fair, there are positive provisions in this bill. For example, it increases funding for family planning programs and the United Nations Population Fund, UNFPA. Regrettably, this good news is tarnished by another provi-

sion in the bill that gives President Bush the power to unilaterally withhold funding from the UNFPA initiative. For several years, President Bush has withheld these funds claiming that UNFPA plays a role in the coercive abortion practices of the Chinese.

Despite that rhetoric, UNFPA does not provide funding for abortions or abortion services. It works to prevent the need for abortions by educating women in other countries on the many advantages to services such as contraception and disease prevention. UNFPA is the largest internationally funded source of population assistance to developing countries. For over three decades, the UNFPA has provided billions of dollars of assistance to more than 150 countries for voluntary family planning and maternal and child health care.

I am also disappointed that the bill fails to fund the Global Environmental Facility, GEF. The GEF is the largest single funding source for projects to improve our global environment.

I also oppose provisions in this bill that have removed all conditionality on U.S. military assistance to Indonesia and Guatemala. Indonesia continues to abuse the human rights of its people and Guatemala has violated numerous agreements stipulated in its domestic peace accords.

What message is this Republican Congress sending the world? On the one hand, President Bush sends Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice on a tour of the Middle East touting democracy. On the other hand, this Republican Congress is allowing brutal regimes to get military aid without any restrictions.

I cannot vote for this legislation. The large amount of military aid and the lack of commitment to promoting democracy and international family planning initiatives force me to vote against it. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting against this ill-conceived legislation.

HONORING THE FIRST GRAD-
UATING CLASS FROM THE CAM-
DEN ACADEMY CHARTER HIGH
SCHOOL

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 29, 2005

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the first graduating class of the Camden Academy Charter High School. The high school grew out of Camden's Promise Charter School, which opened its doors in September of 1998. From the beginning, Camden Academy Charter School has provided a safe environment for the children of Camden. The students here are not just presented with a foundation in academics, but also discover how their education translates into opportunities outside the classroom. The students participate in summer immersion, job shadowing, and even internships with local companies.

These students have truly earned their diplomas. I commend them for their dedication and hard work, and hope that their education will not end here. Education is a lifelong goal, one that serves to the betterment of the individual, and of society. I ask them to read the newspaper; read a novel; write poetry; study current events; talk to friends and family about

the issues of the day. Their graduation today is a starting point from which they can grow and learn, and I wish these students all the best in their future endeavors.

The following are the 2005 graduates from the Camden Academy Charter High School:

Aaron Adams, Kristen Alpheus, Devon Alston, Jamellah Best, Diana Borges, Tyesha Brantley, Domonic Busbee, Troy Butler, Edwin Caraballo, TieQuann Carver, Jesse Coltrane, Alexis Cooper, Michael Cropper, Bianca Cox, Juan Cruz, Aramis Cruz, Letitia Curry, Khalil Davis, Julissa DeCasanova, Yesenia DeCasanova, Christopher Dickerson, Marilyn Ferguson, Rashon Fisher, Sheila Gabriel, and Tajah Gamble.

Abraham Gonzalez, Adrian Graham, DeV Vaughn Hailey, LaToya Hairston, Marcus Harris, Theresa Holmes, Michael Hopkins, William Hughes III, Hope Ibenche, Nashid Ibn-El, Daniel Irizarry, Brittany Johnson, Damian Johnson, Nigel Jones, Erving Jones, Kris Keaton, Monique Kinard, Keyana Kirkland, Antonia Maldonado, Jorge Maldonado, KiaMarae Mathes, Steven McDonald, Jessica Medina, Jevon Miles, and Tabron Miles.

Naemah Mitchell-El, Rafael Montanez, Ebony Mosley, Chanell Moyer, Shardaewood, Saunier O'Neill, Jeremy Ortiz, Charles Parrish, India Powe, Dianna Pujols, Veda Quann, Quameer Reddick-Parker, April Reid-Bey, Christopher Rivera, Daniella Rivera, Jeremy Robinson, Samuel Rodriguez, LaTisha Rodriguez, Cheryl Ross, Kabria Satterwhite, Devin Seamon, Phillip Smalls, Dareese Smith, Akacia Spearman, and Yaniece Spencer.

Vaughn Spicer, Genice Steward, Troy Still, Steven Taylor Jr., Mercy Torres, Gina Torres, Jemaine Underdue, Fashionette Underdue, Alexander Vargas, Jha-Nai Wagner, Tangier Washington, Brittney Webb, Rasheen Webb, Gabrielle Williams, Chanteera Wilson, Lateema Yellock, and Tiffany Young.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR,
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 23, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill, (H.R. 3010) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes:

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in recognition of House Amendment 343 to House Resolution 3010, to restore full funding to the Corporation of Public Broadcasting.

The passage of this amendment preserves public broadcasting, a longstanding American tradition. This amendment enables the Corporation of Public Broadcasting to continue providing countless benefits to our society, including unbiased and nonpartisan information and news, educational and developmental programming and services, and arts and entertainment to the American public.

I would like to commend my fellow colleagues on their cooperation and nonpartisanship in voting to preserve the American institution of public broadcasting. I was unable to vote on the amendment because I was paying my respects to the family of a brave soldier who made the ultimate sacrifice for his country in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

I am strongly against the cuts proposed by House Republicans that were even more severe than the President's suggested budget cuts. While the President recommended a cut of approximately ten million dollars in funding to the Corporation of Public Broadcasting, the House Appropriations Committee and other subcommittees recommended a total cut of \$246.2 million, or 44.9 percent of the current funding. While I recognize the importance of fiscal responsibility, especially in the midst of a severe budget deficit, I believe that we must properly prioritize funding provided by taxpayer dollars. The majority of Americans, according to a recent poll, rank public broadcasting as the second most important publicly provided service, after military defense; additionally the majority of Americans believe not only that their tax dollars are well spent on public broadcasting, but actually support an increase in its funding.

The proposed cuts to public broadcasting are clearly contrary to public opinion. Moreover, these cuts would result in the loss of invaluable services that Americans trust and rely upon, and would harm local economies in the form of closed local stations and lost jobs. For these reasons, I celebrate the passage of this amendment, and pledge my support to continuing funding the Corporation of Public Broadcasting.

THE RETIREMENT OF RABBI
RICHARD LEVINE

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 29, 2005

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of an extraordinary gentleman who I am honored to call a friend. On July 1, 2005, Rabbi Richard Levine will retire after 41 years of service as the spiritual leader of Congregation Adath Emanu-El. Since 1964, Rabbi Levine has worked tirelessly on behalf of his Congregation and the greater Jewish community of southern New Jersey. As my friend continues his journey after retirement, it is with great pride and admiration that I look back on his tenure as a spiritual and community leader.

After graduating from the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania, Richard Levine went on to the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion whereupon completion of his studies, he was ordained as a Rabbi. Arriving in Willingboro, New Jersey in 1964, Rabbi Levine began to get involved with a countless number of Jewish and non-sectarian organizations and causes. In addition to holding the Presidency of the Delaware Valley Association of Reform Rabbis and the Tri-County Board of Rabbis, he was the first New Jersey Rabbi ever to serve as President of the Greater Philadelphia Board of Rabbis. He has served on the Boards of the Jewish Federation of Southern

New Jersey, Jewish Family and Children Services and the Board of Jewish Education.

Rabbi Levine's dedication to our local community goes far beyond his service on Rabbinical and community boards. Over the years he has worked with the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, Operation Head Start, various multi-ethnic human relations organizations and has taught classes at local schools. He has served with distinction as a "scholar in residence" in other communities and has led over a dozen trips to Israel. During these trips, the participants enjoy his first-hand knowledge of the country, its history, people and spiritual meaning.

Today, as we honor the accomplishments of this exceptional American, Rabbi Levine is still hard at work, as the patriarch of a growing family. He and his lovely wife Judith are the proud parents of nine children and are celebrating the arrival of their eighth grandchild! As a father, grandfather and rabbi, Richard Levine has earned the respect, gratitude and admiration of all of us who have had the privilege to work with him over the years.

Mr. Speaker, my friend Richard Levine has dedicated his professional life to the service of his people and the greater community of which I am honored to be a part. As he begins his well-earned retirement, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude for his friendship, leadership and service.

IN HONOR OF CAPTAIN JEFFREY
E. KLINE

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 29, 2005

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Captain Jeffrey E. Kline, United States Navy, who retires this month after 26 years of uniformed service to our Nation's Navy. His career is highlighted by a blend of significant operational and academic achievement.

At the University of Missouri, CAPT Kline participated in the NROTC Program and was commissioned in 1979 upon graduation with honors. He then attended Surface Warfare Officer School at Newport, RI. His first assignments were as Gunnery Officer and Navigator on board the USS *Moosbrugger* from 1979 to 1981 and then on the USS *Ranger* as the Propulsion Officer until 1983. Upon completion of USMC Instructors School, CAPT Kline was a Naval Gunfire Instructor with the Land Force Training Command, Pacific, until 1986. He returned to Department Head School at Newport followed by another sea duty assignment as Combat Systems Officer on board the USS *John L. Hall* from 1986 to 1988. This led directly to a billet as the Combat Systems and Operations Officer on the staff of Commander Destroyer Squadron THREE TWO through 1990. Captain Kline then continued his education at the Naval Postgraduate School graduating with a Masters Degree in Operations Research with distinction in 1992.

Upon graduation, Captain Kline served his first tour as a Commanding Officer on board the USS *Aquila*. In 1993, he was assigned to the Office of the Secretary of Defense for Programs, Analysis and Evaluation as a Naval Forces Analyst, and was awarded the Legion of Merit for his work in 1996. Returning to aca-

demia, he graduated with distinction from the National War College at the National Defense University in 1997.

From 1997 to 1999, Captain Kline assumed his second operational command as the Commanding Officer of the USS *Cushing*. This was followed by a two-year tour as Deputy Operations Officer for the Commander Sixth Fleet. For this work he received the Defense Meritorious Service Medal in 2001. Captain Kline completed his distinguished naval career as the Associate Dean and Chair of Warfare Innovation at the Naval Postgraduate School.

Captain Kline has been consistently recognized for his outstanding service throughout his naval career. In addition to the Legion of Merit and the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, he has been awarded two Meritorious Service medals, three Navy Commendation Medals, and two Navy Achievement Medals by various commands. His academic achievements in naval education earned him the 1992 CNO Excellence in Operations Research Award, the 1996 Naval War College Award for the best Geostrategic Context paper and two Northrop Grumman Awards of Excellence for Systems Engineering in 2003 and 2004 while at the Postgraduate School.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to applaud a person who has served his country with such distinction for so many years. I join with all his friends and family in honoring this talented man and his many achievements.

COMMENDATION FOR ROSALIND M.
WON-PAT FLEET FOR HER PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 29, 2005

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Rosalind M. Won-Pat Fleet for 26 years of dedication and commitment to the security of this Nation through her career with the U.S. Department of Defense. I want to express my personal thanks to Rose as her family and friends gather to honor her accomplishments on the occasion of her retirement.

Born on Guam to the late Congressman Antonio Borja and Ana Perez Won-Pat, Rose currently resides in Haymarket, Virginia. She is married to William Don Fleet and is the proud mother of three children, Natalie, William, Jr., and Michael.

After graduating from George Washington High School in Mangilao, Guam, Rose attended the University of Maryland at College Park where she received her Bachelor of Science degree in Journalism and was a member of Theta Sigma Phi, the National Professional Society for Women in Journalism and Communications. She continued her postgraduate studies in Communications and Public Administration.

Following in her family's tradition of public service, Rose began her career in 1984 as a Budget Assistant with the Commander of Naval Forces Japan (COMNAVFORJAPAN) in Yokosuka, Japan. Within 3 years, she became Budget Chief at the Office of the Director of Naval Intelligence (DNI) at the Pentagon. She continued her rise within the Department of Defense, serving as the Financial Resource Manager with the Defense Intelligence Agency