

legislation, the HASC's Panel on Business Challenges in the Defense Industry was holding hearings and roundtables examining many of the same issues. I appreciate the leadership of Mr. SHUSTER and Mr. LARSEN in this effort, and I was pleased to be part of one of these roundtables. The Panel and my Committee share a common understanding of issues facing small business participation in contracting and the health of the industrial base, which is the basis for the package of about thirty-five provisions that were included in the House-passed version of the NDAA.

As HASC's Panel and my Committee found, the federal government marketplace is full of great opportunities for small businesses to succeed, if only we give them the chance. The federal government spends over half a trillion dollars each year on private sector contracts; small businesses deserve a chance to compete for the work, because they bring efficiency and cost-savings to the taxpayer and create jobs while doing it.

This year's NDAA makes substantial reforms to small business contracting which will benefit small contractors throughout the Nation and is supported by nearly 30 trade associations. The small business provisions in the NDAA will help make sure existing small business goals are actually met, empower small business advocates, and crack down on fraud. Most importantly, this legislation ensures that small businesses have greater opportunities to compete. Government contracting offers a unique opportunity to invest in small businesses while also stimulating our economy, considering small businesses create the majority of new jobs. The passage of the conference report is a victory for the 27 million small businesses hard at work throughout America.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4310,  
NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION  
ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013

SPEECH OF

**HON. STEVE ISRAEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 20, 2012*

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the bipartisan conference agreement for the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2013. The conference report authorizes critical resources for our men and women in uniform and the defense of the American people. While I do not agree with every provision in this bill, I'd like to commend the conference committee for including in its report the Israel King amendment which was passed in the House in May 2012.

This bipartisan amendment would improve the coordination of research, treatment, education, and outreach of mental health, substance use disorders, and traumatic brain injury (TBI) among members of the National Guard, Reserve and their families. All Americans have a moral obligation to provide the best care possible to our veterans when they return home after so bravely serving their country.

Mental health and substance use disorders and TBI affect nearly 20% of all the service members who have been deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. Even more disturbing is that an

American veteran commits suicide every 80 minutes. This is unacceptable. We must act now to ensure our veterans have the support services and access to care that they deserve.

While many active duty service members return from deployments to military bases and have access to quality mental health services, members of the National Guard and Reserve often return from a tour of duty and transition into civilian life far from military bases and without easy access to the care they need. Members of the National Guard and Reserve who have mental health, substance use disorders, or TBI are more likely to have a difficult time transitioning back into family life and their careers.

And those who do seek care in their community may not always receive the most appropriate and effective treatment options. This amendment would allow the Department of Defense to carry out a pilot program with public-private partnerships based on a competitive, merit-based grant process. We have learned that the government cannot meet the needs of our veterans alone. That is why these innovative partnerships are so critical.

Again, I thank the conference committee for including this important amendment in the final bill. American veterans and their families have already sacrificed so much for our country. I encourage all Members to support this critical care for our veterans which they not only need but deserve. We owe them nothing less.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE  
THOMAS T. REMINGTON UPON  
HIS RETIREMENT FROM SERVICE  
AS OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA  
CIRCUIT JUDGE

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 21, 2012*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to congratulate Judge Thomas T. Remington upon his retirement after sixteen years as Okaloosa County Circuit Judge.

Judge Remington's career in public service began in 1966 with his commissioning as a second lieutenant in the United States Army. In 1967, he served in Vietnam as an infantry platoon leader with A Company, 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment (Airborne), 173rd Airborne Brigade. His military badges and decorations include the Combat Infantry Badge, the Silver Star, two Bronze Stars with Combat Distinguishing Devices, and two Purple Hearts.

After his honorable discharge from the Army, Judge Remington served as Assistant Public Defender for the First Judicial Circuit of Florida. In 1971, after being admitted to practice in all State and Federal Courts, he served as Assistant Public Defender for the First Judicial Circuit of Florida. His success in that role earned him the position of Assistant State Attorney for the First Judicial Circuit of Florida. In 1973, he became a partner in the law firm Smith, Grimsley & Remington, P.A. in Fort Walton Beach, Florida. In 1976, he was appointed Acting State Attorney to conduct a special grand jury investigation.

From 1977 to 1992, Judge Remington belonged to the Association of Trial Lawyers of America and the Academy of Florida Trial

Lawyers. From 1980 to 1984, he served on the First Judicial Circuit Trial Court Nominating Commission, and from 1988 to 1990, he served as Chairman of the First Judicial Circuit Grievance Committee. Judge Remington's career as a judge began in 1993, when he became a Walton County Circuit Judge in DEFUNIAK Springs, Florida. In 1996 Judge Remington was elected Circuit Judge for Okaloosa County and has held that position since then, even serving as Chairman of the Okaloosa County Judicial Task Force in 1997.

Without question, Judge Remington's positive contributions to Northwest Florida and to our nation have been immense, and his mark on the judicial landscape will remain for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it gives me great pride to congratulate Judge Thomas T. Remington on his retirement and thank him for his service. My wife Vicki joins me in wishing Judge Remington; his wife, Dinah Smith; their children, Scott A. Remington, Mary Remington Williams, and Sara (Betsy) E. Hart; as well as their nine grandchildren, all the best.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4310,  
NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION  
ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 20, 2012*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great regret that I rise to reluctantly oppose the Fiscal Year 2013 National Defense Authorization Conference Report.

While the final version of the Defense Authorization bill makes many key improvements from the House-passed bill earlier this year, it unfortunately continues to fail the test of balance and funds billions of dollars of unnecessary programs within the Defense Department, while disregarding the caps set forth by the Budget Control Act. As Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, Mr. ROGERS, said last year when we passed the BCA, "Tough choices will have to be made, particularly when it comes to defense and national security priorities, but shared sacrifice will bring shared results." Unfortunately, the bill that is before us violates that bipartisan agreement.

In developing its plan for FY2013, the Defense Department conducted a comprehensive review of force needs, capabilities and obligations. Difficult choices were made about which programs to keep and which to cut in order to maintain a fiscally responsible mission ready capability. However, the Conference Report authorizes funding levels above those requested by the president and above the BCA. The measure authorizes \$552 billion in base national defense spending for the current year and \$88.5 billion for the war in Afghanistan—\$1.7 billion above the funding levels requested by the President in his February budget submission and \$6.3 billion above the cap the BCA set last year.

There are many programs contained in this bill that were not requested by the Defense Department. For example, the measure authorizes the establishment of a missile defense site on the East Coast that the DoD says threatens funding for the maintenance