

As the Nation's largest employer, I believe that the federal government has a responsibility to lead by example to be a model employer. This is especially true for the Department of Defense. Since being elected to Congress, I have met and worked with many civilian employees at DoD and am inspired by their dedication. Our military and country are stronger because of them, and I will continue to support efforts that strengthen our federal workforce.

THE HOMELAND SECURITY
APPROPRIATIONS ACT OF FY2014

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 14, 2013

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 2217, the FY14 Homeland Security Appropriations bill. I appreciate the bipartisan effort put into crafting H.R. 2217 and commend the members of the Appropriations Committee for encouraging a collaborative and open process. It's unfortunate that at the last minute an anti-immigration amendment offered by Representative STEVE KING of Iowa upset the delicate bipartisan balance established in the bill.

Recent events emphasize the importance of ensuring the availability of the resources our country needs to address national emergencies. The tornadoes in Oklahoma, the bombings at the Boston Marathon, forest fires in California and Colorado are just a few examples of why funding for homeland security should always be considered a national priority. This bill provides resources to address these and other critical needs by directing funding to protect the country's transportation infrastructure and cybernetworks, and equally important, to our first responders who help to protect our communities and who play a vital role in helping keep the nation safe and secure. In total, the bill appropriates \$38.9 billion for the Department in FY 2014 for these and other critical national priorities.

While I support the level of funding set for Homeland Security in this bill, I strongly oppose the funding levels set in the Republican budget plan for other key priorities. For example, the Republican budget recklessly cuts the category of funding for our kids' education and medical research by 20 percent below the sequester level. Consequently, I strongly support the President's position that the funding levels for Homeland Security must ultimately be considered in the context of an overall agreement on the budget. Unfortunately, our Republican colleagues in the House and Senate continue to refuse to convene a conference to negotiate a budget agreement.

Additionally, I share the President's concern about the bill's failure to fund the request for the Department of Homeland Security headquarters consolidation project, which will only delay the project further; the bill's failure to fully fund the request for new Customs and Borders Protection officers; and the bill's continued funding of the unnecessary 287 (g) program when the Secure Communities program is a more efficient and cost-effective alternative.

In that same vein, this year I again opposed the anti-immigration amendment offered by

Representative KING that prohibits the use of funds in the bill from being used to implement the so called "Morton Memos." These memos were written by ICE Director Morton and provide a plan to deploy ICE resources to the most cost effective priorities and provide guidance to ensure that limited resources are focused on criminals and other individuals who pose a genuine threat to national security or public safety. I am disappointed that the House chose to again include this provision and it is for that reason that I will oppose this bill.

RECOGNIZING THE PUBLIC
SERVICE OF MARC JOHNSON

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 14, 2013

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Marcus Johnson as he prepares to retire from his position as Superintendent of the Sanger Unified School District. Marc will be leaving after more than 35 years in public education in the Central Valley.

As Superintendent of Sanger Unified, Marc transformed some of California's lowest performing schools into some of our best. The education reforms that he spearheaded are now considered a model for schools across the country. Marc's dedication and commitment to improving education standards in the Central Valley have been nationally recognized including by the American Association of Student Administrators who named him the 2011 National Superintendent of the Year.

A California native, Marc lives in the small community of Reedley, where at age four he moved with his parents and where his wife of 37 years, Penni, taught at Thomas Law Reed Elementary, before retiring last year. He is a graduate of Reedley Community College, California State University, Fresno and Fresno Pacific University, where he received his Masters in Education. Marc began his career in education at American Union Elementary, where he taught for 16 years and later served as the district's superintendent and principal. In 1999, Marc was named the Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources for the Sanger Unified School District, before assuming the role of Superintendent of the district in the fall of 2003.

When Marc took over as Superintendent, Sanger Unified was struggling. A year into his tenure, the district was designated for program improvement by the State of California. Under Marc's leadership and guidance, Sanger Unified implemented education reforms including adopting the professional learning community model focused on student learning, high quality instruction, and teacher collaboration. Within two years Sanger Unified exited program improvement status and its schools have since gone on to win many accolades and awards. Recently, Sanger Unified became only the second school district in the country to have every one of its middle schools named to the Department of Education's prestigious "Schools to Watch" list.

Although Marc is retiring as Superintendent of Sanger Unified, he will continue the fight to improve education standards in the Central Valley as the interim co-director of the John D.

Welty Center for Educational Policy and Leadership. In addition, Marc is retiring to spend much needed time with his wife, his three children, and his four grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the distinguished educational leadership of Mr. Marc Johnson. The work he has done for the Sanger Unified School District will have a lasting impact on our children in Fresno County and in the entire State of California.

RECOGNIZING FALLEN OWEGO
FIREFIGHTER CAPTAIN MATT
PORCARI

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 14, 2013

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize fallen Owego Firefighter Captain Matt Porcari. Captain Porcari belonged to the Owego Fire Department for 18 years before his tragic death while actively responding to a mutual aid fire call in Newark Valley, New York. He was 34 years old and leaves behind a wife Christina, two children and three step-children.

Captain Porcari was a dedicated volunteer in the department who began his service at age 16, serving as a mentor and friend to newer members. His caring nature extended beyond the Owego community, demonstrated by his assistance to the Long Beach Fire Station following Hurricane Sandy and by his efforts to organize a trip to pay tribute to the fallen firefighters in Webster, New York. In addition, Captain Porcari led the Croton Hose Company #3 in the Central New York Hose Racing Championships and was a member of the youngest team to win a CNY Championship in 1995.

Captain Porcari's legacy was honored this June at the Owego Fallen Firefighters Memorial Golf Tournament, which was held in honor of Captain Porcari and other fallen Owego firefighters. The monies raised at the tournament will support scholarships for Owego Free Academy's graduating seniors pursuing careers as first responders. Additional monies will go to the development and maintenance of an Owego Fire Department training facility.

Today we honor Matt Porcari's sacrifice. Let us remember every day the price paid by true heroes such as Matt.

INTRODUCTION OF THE YOUTH
JOBS ACT

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 14, 2013

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Youth Jobs Act.

We are facing a jobs crisis in this country, and even our youth are not exempt from its effects. Five years after the Great Recession hit, 27 million workers are either unemployed or underemployed—roughly one out of every six U.S. workers. This is completely unacceptable.

Even worse though, is the impact this crisis is leaving on the next generation of workers.

America's young adults and teens are currently facing unemployment rates of 16 and 24 percent respectively. The ramifications of these young Americans not being able to find work are troubling and far reaching.

We must do everything we can to make sure young Americans have the jobs they need to pay for higher education and to learn skills that will prepare them for careers and professions. If we do not create employment opportunities for all young Americans, we inhibit the ability and opportunity for them to move up the economic ladder, and to improve their conditions.

For this reason, I am introducing the "Youth Jobs Act" with Senator BERNIE SANDERS of Vermont.

This Act directs the U.S. Department of Labor to provide \$1.5 billion in grants for states to provide summer and year-round employment opportunities for low-income youth. States could then use these funds to identify employment opportunities in emerging occupations and in the public and nonprofit sector to meet their community's needs.

An additional \$1.5 billion would be distributed through competitive grants to states and local communities to provide on-the-job training and apprenticeship programs for low-income youth and disadvantaged young adults. The grant recipients would be strongly encouraged to develop partnerships with employers, community colleges, community organizations and join labor-management committees.

At minimum, every state would receive \$15 million to implement summer and year round job opportunities and training programs, with the remainder being targeted to areas of particularly high youth unemployment and poverty.

Ensuring there are adequate jobs for every American should be Congress' number one focus. I encourage my colleagues to support this measure to put America's youth to work.

FACT SHEET ON REP. CONYERS' YOUTH JOBS ACT

At a time when the youth unemployment rate is over 16 percent, and the teen unemployment rate is over 24 percent, we have got to do everything we can to make sure that young Americans have the jobs they need to pay for a college education and to move up the economic ladder.

The Youth Jobs Act that will be introduced in the Senate by Sen. Sanders will provide \$3 billion in immediate funding to employ hundreds of thousands of low-income youth and economically disadvantaged young adults in summer and year round jobs; and to provide young Americans with the job training and skills they need for the jobs of the future.

This legislation is modeled on the youth jobs and training programs included in President Obama's American Jobs Act.

The Youth Jobs Act would build on the success of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act which created over 374,000 summer job opportunities during 2009 and 2010 to young Americans through \$1.2 billion for the Youth Jobs Workforce Investment Act program.

Under the Youth Jobs Act, the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) would provide \$1.5 billion in grants to states to:

Provide summer and year round employment opportunities for low-income youth, with direct links to academic and occupational learning; and

Provide important services such as transportation or child care, necessary to enable young Americans to participate in job opportunities.

Each state that would like to participate in this program would have to submit a plan to DOL that must include:

Strategies and activities to provide summer employment opportunities and year-round employment opportunities for low-income youth, including links to educational activities;

Identifying employment opportunities in emerging or in-demand occupations;

Identifying employment opportunities in the public or nonprofit sector that meet community needs; and

An estimate of the number of youth expected to be placed in employment opportunities.

Under this legislation, DOL would also award \$1.5 billion in competitive grants to local areas to provide work-based training to low-income youth and disadvantaged young adults.

Through this bill, DOL will award grant applications to local areas that have the ability to:

Implement effective strategies and activities to provide unemployed, low-income youth and disadvantaged young adults with the skills needed for employment;

Provide opportunities for on-the-job training, and registered apprenticeship programs;

Provide connections to immediate work opportunities; paid internships; enrollment in community colleges; or basic education and training for low-income young adults; and

Develop partnerships with employers and employer associations, community colleges, and other postsecondary education institutions; community-based organizations; joint labor-management committees; and work-related intermediaries.

All states would receive a minimum of \$15 million to implement summer and year round job opportunities and job-training programs under this bill.

The remainder of the funding would be targeted to areas of high youth unemployment and poverty.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 14, 2013

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I want to state for the record that yesterday, June 13th, I was not recorded on one rollcall vote. I would like to state for the record that I would have voted "nay" on rollcall Vote number 221: On Agreeing to the Resolution on H. Res. 260—Providing for further consideration of the bill (H.R. 1960) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2014 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

REMEMBERING GEORGIA STATE SENATOR NATHAN DEAN

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 14, 2013

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of State Senator Nathan Dean, and thank him for his dedicated service to Georgia and his community.

Last Saturday our state lost one of the finest public officials it has ever seen, as Dean passed away at the age of 79.

Senator Dean was born in the town of Rockmart, which he called home throughout his entire life. After graduating from Rockmart High School in 1952, he attended Shorter College and then joined the U.S. Army. Thereafter, he answered the call to public service. Before his election to the Georgia Senate in 1974, Dean served for a total of 16 years on the Rockwall City Council and in the Georgia House of Representatives.

During his tenure in the State Legislature, he was named "Man of the Year for Civic Affairs" and "Senator of the Year." In addition to his responsibilities as a Senator, he was active in community organizations such as Piedmont Avenue Baptist Church of Rockmart; Rockmart-Aragon Little League; Rockmart, Cedartown, and Cartersville Chambers of Commerce; Polk and Bartow County Farm Bureau; the Masons, Shriners, and Odd Fellows; the Northwest Council for Boy Scouts; Cedartown, Haralson, and Bartow County Historical societies; and mental disability programs.

I had the pleasure of working with Senator Dean on many occasions during my own time in the Georgia Senate, and came to know him as a very hardworking and effective advocate. Nathan was a role model for all public officials: he truly loved the people of his district and Georgia, and worked tirelessly to represent his constituents to the best of his ability.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my deepest condolences to Senator Dean's wife Ann; his two sons and daughters-in-law, Aland and Durand Dean and Scot and Keri Dean; his grandchildren Seven, Ana Scott, and Mason; his brother, four sisters; and his many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews during these most difficult of times. Although we are now without this honorable man, husband, and citizen, we can take comfort in knowing that he made Georgia a better place to live.

CENTRALIA SENTINEL SESQUICENTENNIAL

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 14, 2013

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the sesquicentennial of the Centralia Sentinel. For 150 years, the newspaper has chronicled events large and small in and around the southern Illinois town of Centralia. It holds a special place in my heart, as the hometown paper of my namesake and grandfather, John Shimkus. His clothing store advertised for years in the Sentinel.

History tells us that the regional term "Little Egypt" arose from the poor harvest of the 1830s. Citizens of the North had to travel south to buy grain, reminiscent of the Biblical story of Joseph being brought "down to Egypt." A visitor walking into the reception area of the Sentinel is greeted with hieroglyphics on the wall, evoking images of an Egyptian tomb. However, those who have worked there know that the Sentinel is anything but tomb-like, frequently noting the family atmosphere, something long promoted by the newspaper's leadership.