

been confiscated as evidence during the course of an investigation.

Let me be clear—this amendment is not intended to provide any new privileges to any perpetrator of a sexual assault. I am offering this amendment today to provide victims an opportunity to reclaim those items that are important to them.

It was good policy when this bill was introduced, and it is good policy now.

Grayson Amendment No. 81 will prohibit the Department of Defense from contracting with entities convicted of using “Made in America” labels fraudulently.

The current law governing this issue can be found at 10 U.S.C. 2410f. It states very clearly that if a person is convicted of intentionally affixing a label bearing a “Made in America” inscription, then the Secretary of Defense has the discretion not to debar that person from contracting with the Department of Defense.

Madam Chair, if we are going to put laws on the books to address an issue, they should mean something. We, the Members of this body, should make our intent clear. If someone purposely misrepresents an item as being “Made in America”, and he is convicted of that crime—he does not get the benefit of securing contracts with our Armed Forces.

My amendment accomplishes that goal. It requires debarment of the entities outlined above, while at the same time allowing the Secretary of Defense a narrow national security exception, which should be used only in the most extreme circumstances.

This amendment makes good sense. It protects American businesses, and appropriately punishes those who have the audacity to claim that a product has been “Made in America” when it has not.

I’d be remiss at this time, if I did not thank my good friend, Representative CAROL SHEA-PORTER from the great state of New Hampshire. She has been discussing the idea of this amendment with me at least since February, and she was integral in its drafting and securing the support of her colleagues on the House Armed Services Committee. For that I am grateful—thank you again, Representative SHEA-PORTER for all of your hard work in support of this amendment.

Finally, Madam Chair, Grayson Amendment No. 140 will extend the current United States Space Protection Strategy by an additional five-year period—until 2030.

In the 2008 NDAA, Congress required that a greater priority be put on the protection of national security space systems. It directed the Secretary of Defense, in conjunction with the Director of National Intelligence, to develop a strategy for the development of capabilities that are necessary to ensure freedom of action in space for the United States.

The strategy, which is outlined in the notes to 10 U.S.C. 2271, is required to cover fiscal years 2008 through 2013; 2014 through 2019; and 2020 through 2025. My amendment, recognizing that the first five-year covered period has lapsed, simply requires an additional five-year period—2026 through 2030.

I am proud that this amendment will still be in force when my nine-year-old sons have grown into adults. This amendment will protect not just the United States’ position in space, but also their physical well-being.

Madam Chair, again, I thank Chairman MCKEON and Ranking Member SMITH for agreeing to include all three of these amend-

ments in this en bloc package. I believe these amendments make America not only a safer place, but a better place.

RECOGNIZING LT. COL. JOHN J. MCCARTHY

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, Lt. Col. John J. McCarthy retired from the United States Marine Corps in 1975 after 29 years of outstanding service and leadership. He is the recipient of the Distinguished Flying Cross, which was awarded to him in 1969 citing his courage, superior airmanship and unwavering devotion to duty in the face of great personal danger in Vietnam. He also was awarded the Bronze Star and 19 Air Medals. Lt. Col. McCarthy was 17 years old when he joined the United States Navy in 1946, subsequently earning a college degree from Temple University. Because of his long-standing interest in flying, in 1952 he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps and entered flight school. In 1964, he was deployed to Vietnam, where he flew 180 missions. He would return to Vietnam in 1968 as the commanding officer at Chu-Lai and flew another 130 combat missions. He will be honored by his fellow members of the Jesse W. Soby American Legion Post, 148 in his home County of Bucks, Pennsylvania, on Memorial Day, 2014—a ceremony he will attend in full uniform. It is with deep gratitude that we acknowledge the exemplary service of a courageous leader who has honorably served his country and set an example for others to follow.

DC BLACK PRIDE

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, once again, I am proud to join DC Black Pride, as I have since its beginnings on Banneker Field. This Memorial Day weekend, May 23th–25th, marks the 24th annual DC Black Pride celebration in Washington, D.C.

DC Black Pride 2014 is a multi-day festival featuring: an opening reception; community town hall meetings; educational workshops; a poetry slam; a film festival; a church service; and performances by musicians, dancers, and other artists at the Cultural Arts/Health and Wellness Expo, the culminating event of DC Black Pride. DC Black Pride is widely considered to be one of the world’s preeminent Black Pride celebrations, drawing more than 30,000 people to the nation’s capital from across the United States as well as from Canada, the Caribbean, South Africa, Great Britain, France, Germany, and the Netherlands.

As the very first Black Pride festival, DC Black Pride fostered the beginning of the Center for Black Equity (formerly known as the International Federation of Black Prides, Inc. and the “Black Pride Movement,” which now consists of 40 Black Prides on four continents.

Black Lesbian and Gay Pride Day, Inc., the celebration’s organizing body, chose “I AM Pride” as the theme for this year’s celebration. This theme reflects the connectedness of the Black Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) community and its commitment to fulfilling the mission of DC Black Pride, which is to increase awareness of and pride in the diversity of LGBT Blacks. Moreover, the theme expresses the resolve of the African-American LGBT community and its allies to come together to: fight for LGBT equality; celebrate its heritage and culture as members of both the Black and LGBT communities; and promote health and wellness for the community.

DC Black Pride is a project of the Center for Black Equity and is coordinated by Earl D. Fowlkes, Jr. and Kenya Anthony Hutton with assistance from Andrea Woody-Macko, Robert “Harold” Dinkins and dozens of volunteers.

I ask the House to join me in welcoming all attending the 24th annual DC Black Pride celebration in Washington, D.C., and I take this opportunity to remind the celebrants that United States citizens who reside in Washington, D.C. are taxed without full voting representation in Congress.

HOWARD P. “BUCK” MCKEON NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4435) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 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:

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support my commonsense amendment included in En Bloc Amendment #7 that would express the Sense of Congress that active duty military personnel who live in or are stationed in Washington, DC should be exempt from existing District of Columbia firearms restrictions.

It is no secret that the District of Columbia has historically had some of the most restrictive firearm regulations in the nation even after the victory for Second Amendment rights in the 2008 ruling by the Supreme Court in District of Columbia v. Heller. With approximately 40,000 service men and women across all branches of the Armed Forces either living in or stationed on active duty within the Washington, DC metropolitan area, these individuals are subject to the very laws of the District of Columbia that make the lawful possession of firearms nearly impossible.

Mr. Chair, my amendment would recognize that the DC handgun law, especially in regard to trained service men and women, punishes individuals well-equipped to protect themselves and others while emboldening perpetrators of violent crime. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this amendment.

HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4435) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 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:

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Chair, I rise today in strong support of the McMorris Rodgers/Bishop amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act. As co-chairs of the Congressional Military Family Caucus, we are committed to supporting military families. Our amendment highlights a growing issue for military spouses: that of unemployment and underemployment.

Military spouses face a unique lifestyle marked by frequent moves, increased family responsibility during deployments, and limited career opportunities in certain geographic locations. These circumstances make it especially tough for those who want to build a portable career that matches their skills, including their education and experience.

According to a recent DoD survey, the unemployment rate for civilians married to a military member is 25 percent—and climbs to 33 percent for spouses of junior enlisted members. In contrast, the average unemployment rate for individuals 20 years and over is 6.1 percent. A recent Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)/Institute for Veterans and Military Families' (IVMF) Military Spouse Employment Report looked beyond unemployment, finding that 9 out of 10 female military spouses who are employed possess more formal education or experience than is needed in their current position. Many spend years obtaining a degree or developing an area of expertise, only to find that they must be relicensed or recertified each time they move across state lines. For medical professionals, nurses, attorneys, teachers, and numerous others, the financial and emotional burden is too much. Their circumstances make it difficult to build a retirement fund, or get the promotion or tenure they would obtain in civilian life.

DoD has demonstrated its commitment to helping military spouses obtain employment by establishing several programs, including the Military Spouse Employment Partnership (MSEP), a computer portal that connects companies with military spouses seeking employment. Since MSEP's launch in June 2011, more than 61,000 military spouses have obtained jobs through the program. DoD presently collects data on the number of businesses participating in MSEP and the number of military spouses placed in a job through the program. However, information is not available on the types of jobs obtained and whether they are commensurate with an applicant's experience or education.

Our amendment would require DoD to begin gathering this data, which will equip us to better address the complex employment challenges of military spouses.

I applaud DoD for its significant progress in addressing military spouse unemployment. Yet, we have a continuing responsibility to make sure our programs are as effective as possible. I urge my colleagues to support our amendment to enhance efforts to address military spouse unemployment and underemployment.

IN RECOGNITION OF KATHLEEN McDERMOTT'S RETIREMENT

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Kathleen J. McDermott, the Executive Director of the Montachusett Opportunity Council, Inc. (MOC) a \$17 million anti-poverty community action agency serving North Central Massachusetts. After many years of dedicated service, Kathy will be enjoying a well-earned retirement.

MOC does incredible work. Their mission is to alleviate poverty and create healthy communities by providing services, coordinating community resources that promote self-sufficiency and advocating for social change. Last year, MOC provided services in 30 communities and served over 20,000 individuals.

Prior to becoming Executive Director, Kathy was the agency's Director of Administration and Finance. During her tenure the agency has developed many new initiatives. MOC is known for addressing the changing needs of the community by planning strategically, using new approaches and collaborating with community partners to build a more vibrant community. Programs the agency administers include Asset Development, ChildCare and Head Start, Youth Services, Education, Training and Employment, Wellness and Nutrition Services, Energy Conservation, Housing, Elder Services, Homelessness Services and Neighborhood Development.

Kathy was instrumental in the establishment of the Community Health Connections Family Health Center, a federally funded health center with sites in Fitchburg, Leominster and Gardner and served as its first President of the Board of Directors.

When Kathy officially retires on August 1st, MOC will have big shoes to fill. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in congratulating Kathy on her retirement and wishing her the very best in the years ahead.

HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4435) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2015 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:

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Chair, in 2011, all of New York's Chinatown suffered a profound loss when Private Danny Chen died in Afghanistan. We did not lose this young man through combat with the enemy. Rather, Danny passed away after enduring horrific abuse and hazing at the hands of others in his unit. After months of being forced to do push-ups while holding water in his mouth, being kicked, called racial slurs and having rocks thrown at him, Danny died while on guard duty.

One of the great tragedies of this case is that Danny's superiors—both enlisted troops and officers—were either complicit with his hazing or turned a blind eye, allowing his abuse to continue. We have to wonder, if Danny Chen had somewhere to turn whether he would still be alive today. If someone else in Danny's unit had been able to speak out—without fear of repercussions—might things have ended differently? Would Danny's parents, Szu Chen and Yao Ten, still have their son?

Unfortunately, hazing remains too common in the military—and often goes unreported. By requiring every branch of the military to establish a tip line where these incidents could be reported, this amendment would help create a zero-tolerance environment for hazing. Not only will this provide help for the servicemember suffering abuse, but it can serve as a powerful deterrent. When potential bullies know inappropriate behavior can be anonymously and safely reported, they will be more cautious.

Madam Chair, no family should have to endure what the Chens have. The brave men and women who serve our Nation risk everything on our behalf. We owe it to them to ensure they operate in a professional environment where everyone is afforded dignity and respect, regardless of background. I urge my colleagues to vote yes on the amendment.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CERTIFY IT ACT

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to be a voice for the employees and owners of small businesses across the United States. The working class men and women who are struggling to make ends meet and who are on the front lines on the war against rising health care costs deserve to know the truth about Obamacare. The truth is Obamacare is hurting small businesses and their employees. Health care costs are rising and Obamacare is causing the problem rather than solving it.

To shed some light on increased health care costs and their impact on America's middle class, I am introducing the Certify It Act. This bill requires the Comptroller General of the United States to annually study, for five years, the impact the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) will have on small business jobs and health care insurance premiums.

This bill would also provide for a one-year delay of the employer mandate, the cornerstone of Obamacare, should the Comptroller General or the Office of Actuary at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services