

payments and voluntary early retirement payments in order to achieve the required reductions in personnel.

Provide the Secretary of Defense the authority to assign greater weight to the performance factor, rather than other factors such as tenure, in a Reduction in Force.

There is no doubt that our DoD civilian workers play a vital role in numerous positions including logistics, acquisition, personnel management, and more. The mission of the civilian workforce at DoD is to support our uniformed personnel and their missions around the world. However, as we draw down our uniformed personnel, it makes no sense to not make commensurate reductions to the civilian workforce—a practice that has occurred in previous drawdowns.

As Members of Congress, we should not let parochial interests prevent us from doing what is right for the country. Simply stated, it is inconceivable, defies logic and tramples the lessons of experience that a federal civilian job, once created, must live on forever. If our uniformed services are being reduced because the wars are ending, then a significant portion of the civilian jobs created to support those warfighters should be eliminated—not become contractor positions. Those jobs must be eliminated and done so at the legislative mandate of the Congress and at the executive discretion of the Secretary of Defense.

In closing, I would like to mention that this was the last NDAA brought to the House floor by my good friend and the Chairman of the Armed Services Committee, Rep. BUCK MCKEON (CA–25). I want to thank Chairman MCKEON for all of the hard work and dedication he has demonstrated on behalf of our troops and their families throughout his service here in the House.

HONORING SERGEANT KYLE
WHITE

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Sergeant Kyle White. Sgt. White was awarded the highest honor in the military, the Medal of Honor for meritorious conduct, by President Barack Obama on May 13, 2014.

Like his fellow soldiers, he is accustomed to running toward danger instead of away, but Sgt. White's courage is above and beyond the ordinary. He repeatedly ran the gauntlet of enemy fire to get to wounded and fallen soldiers, regardless of his personal safety. In an ambush in November of 2007 Sgt. White, who was barely 20 years old, stayed with a wounded and fallen soldier for the duration, calling in reports and directing others so that the wounded and dead could be safely evacuated. It is my privilege and greatest honor to represent our Veterans in Congress and I applaud the decision to award him with this medal. It is well deserved.

Mr. Speaker, I salute Sgt. Kyle White, and I thank him for the many sacrifices he has made in service to our nation.

RECOGNIZING MR. ROBERT ISHAM

HON. DINA TITUS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a constituent from Nevada's First Congressional District, Robert Isham. A young Mr. Isham enlisted in the United States Navy on November 4, 1942, in Seattle, Washington. He then attended Basic Training in San Diego, California. Following his graduation from the Naval Air Technical Training Center in Norman, Oklahoma, where he was trained to be an Aviation Machinist Mate, he was transferred to the Virginia Naval Air Station in Norfolk, Virginia.

On September 17, 1943, Mr. Isham was seriously injured in an explosion and fire at the Virginia Naval Air Station when a 300 pound depth charge exploded, setting off a chain reaction of 23 more charges. Thirty-three aircraft and at least 15 buildings across the base were destroyed. Many were killed and a number of individuals, including Mr. Isham, were badly hurt.

Following a three month stay at Norfolk Naval Hospital in Portsmouth, Virginia, Mr. Isham bravely returned to duty and was transferred to Quonset Point Naval Air Station in Rhode Island, where he taught courses on aircraft structures. Following a year in Rhode Island, Mr. Isham was transferred to Corvallis, Oregon, and became a Plane Captain on a F4U Corsair fighter aircraft.

Mr. Isham was discharged from the United States Navy on December 10, 1945. He was only rated as 10% disabled as a result of shrapnel wounds sustained during the tragic explosion in Norfolk, Virginia. He was awarded the Good Conduct Medal, the American Area Campaign Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal.

Recently, my office in Las Vegas worked with Robert and the Department of Veterans Affairs to increase his disability rating to 100%, ensuring he receives the benefits he deserved.

Mr. Speaker, as we approach Memorial Day, we will take time to remember many members of the Greatest Generation who have passed away. Today, I ask the House to pause for a moment of gratitude in honor of my constituent, Mr. Robert "Bob" Isham, a member of the Greatest Generation and a decorated American hero.

90TH ANNIVERSARY OF U.S. FOREIGN AND AMERICAN FOREIGN SERVICE ASSOCIATION

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2014

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 90th Anniversary of the U.S. Foreign Service and the American Foreign Service Association. Created by the Foreign Services Act of 1924, the Foreign Service brought together the U.S. State Department's Diplomatic Service and Consular Service to be the face, heart and soul of America abroad. Through a World War and various hot and

cold wars across the globe since, the men and women of the Foreign Service have played vital roles in representing the United States of America, serving U.S. citizens, and securing U.S. interest near and far.

Much has changed since the initial formation of the Foreign Service following World War I. But a few things have remained the same over these ninety years. Among them are the professionalism and dedication of those who often leave the creature comforts we have come to enjoy on our hallowed shores to serve in remote and distant places often with little recognition or notoriety for a cause far greater than themselves. I rise today to recognize them not only for the crises they led U.S. through, but also for the many crises they allowed our country to avert through their diligence, intellect, intuition, compassion and steely resolve to be champions for peace, democracy and basic humanity. I rise to recognize them for the service, care and comfort they provide to our citizens while abroad reminding them that the supporting hand of American is never far away.

Our world has become more globally networked and intertwined since the early days of "hand shake, face-to-face" diplomacy. Revolution can start in days now not months. Economic interests often go crosswise with security, social, or political interests. Adversaries on some issues are often allies on others and we look to the members of the Foreign Service to navigate and represent the nuances of American foreign policy. Yet time after time, year after year, crisis after crisis, issue after issue they have always owned up to the challenge and America and the world are the better for it.

Not only do we celebrate today the 90th Anniversary of the Foreign Service but also the 90th Anniversary of the American Foreign Services Association (AFSA) which was formed as the professional association of the modern Foreign Service and later became the official representative and advocate for our Foreign Service professionals. Initially formed with the Foreign Service in mind, the Association has expanded to represent not only Foreign Service retired and active employees of the Department of State and USAID but also the distinguished Foreign Agricultural Service and Foreign Commercial Service employees, Broadcasting Board of Governors and Foreign Service employees at the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. We stand today to celebrate this wonderful organization that has for ninety years served those who serve us.

Through the years AFSA has been stellar in fulfilling its mission of promoting a strong, effective professional career Foreign Service as the institutional backbone of American diplomacy, enhancing the effectiveness of the Foreign Service, protecting the professional interests and rights of its members, ensuring the maintenance of high professional standards for all American diplomats, career or political appointees, and promoting understanding of the critical role of diplomacy and development in promoting America's national security and economic prosperity. AFSA has been and continues to be an effective voice and strong advocate for the Foreign Service with its members' management, the Congress and the American public.

Finally, Mr. Speaker we can take comfort in this year of celebrating the Foreign Service's 90th Anniversary that whether it is a crisis in

Ukraine, a civil war in Syria, conflict and suffering in Africa, trade in North America or peace in the Middle East for example, our Foreign Service is there in fact and in spirit reflecting the best of who we are as a country and for that we say "Thank You" and congratulations on your 90th Anniversary.

WATER RESOURCES REFORM AND
DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2014

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I strongly commend Chairman SHUSTER and Ranking Member RAHALL for bringing conference report for the Water Resources and Reform Development Act to the floor. It represents a great bipartisan effort on one of Congress' true article one responsibilities, providing for America's infrastructure. In northeast Georgia, the Savannah Harbor Expansion Project (SHEP) means jobs. Georgia's 9th Congressional District shipped more than 10,780 tons of goods through Georgia ports in 2013 alone. As a member of the Georgia House of Representatives, I fought for Georgia's investment in SHEP to get the project moving, and now as a member of the United States House of Representatives, I'm proud to vote in favor of the federal government living up to its promise of matching funds. Deepening this harbor from 42 to 47 feet will allow new supertankers to use the port to transport Georgia products all over the world.

There are a number of good reforms in this bill that will increase efficiency and reduce the cost of upcoming projects. A provision of the bill will limit the length and cost of Army Corps of Engineers feasibility studies, so that projects can be completed on schedule and on budget. This bill deauthorizes over \$18 billion of old, inactive projects, more than offsetting the authorizations in this bill. WRRDA also sunsets the authorization of any project authorized by the bill after 7 years if construction has not begun.

Any piece of legislation aimed at reform has room for improvement. Language included in the underlying bill regarding the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River (ACF) and the Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa River (ACT) Systems was far from perfect. No language in this bill implies any Congressional intent to interfere with states' work on this important issue. This dispute has been ongoing for a number of years, and Congress interjecting will not bring about a more favorable outcome to any of the parties involved. Water supply disputes are best handled at the state level, and I trust that the governors of the affected states will come together and resolve the issue without Congressional intervention.

Overall, I am very supportive of this bill and urge its adoption.

HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON NA-
TIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZA-
TION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

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. ESHOO. Mr. Chair, I rise today in opposition to the Shimkus amendment and efforts to undermine the continued success of the Internet.

The Internet has always been driven by consensus decision-making, or multistakeholder governance. This model brings together industry, civil society, government, technical and academic experts, as well the general public, to tackle issues around the design and operation of the Internet.

Three time in the past two years, this body has voted to reaffirm our commitment to the multistakeholder model, including last May when Democrats and Republicans joined together to unanimously pass H.R. 1580, a bill stating that "it is the policy of the United States to preserve and advance the successful multistakeholder model that governs the Internet."

So what exactly is the problem with the amendment before us today? It's a U-turn. The Shimkus amendment would restrict NTIA's authority to continue what has been U.S. policy since 1998—transitioning the government's role in administering the domain name system to the multistakeholder global community. Although supporters of the amendment characterize it as a stand against anti-democratic nations seeking a greater government role in Internet management, the amendment could have the opposite effect of emboldening efforts by authoritarian regimes to seize control of the global Internet. Specifically, authoritarian regimes point to the U.S. government's continued oversight of technical Internet functions as evidence that global Internet governance and management should be under the control of a governmental or intergovernmental entity such as the United Nations.

The Shimkus Amendment lacks a fundamental understanding of the U.S. government's role in the management of the global Internet domain name system. Contrary to assertions that the United States "controls" the Internet through an ongoing contract that the Administration is now proposing to terminate, NTIA's role has always been ministerial and largely symbolic. Simply put, the U.S. government has never had any legal or statutory responsibility to manage the domain name system.

The world is watching and now is not the time to turn our backs on a governance model that has enabled the Internet to flourish. I urge my colleagues to take a stand for a global Internet free from government control and vote "no" on the Shimkus amendment.

HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON NA-
TIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZA-
TION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROL SHEA-PORTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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. SHEA-PORTER. Mr. Chair, due to sequester cuts, the Department of Defense (DoD) needs to increase efficiency and lower costs wherever it can, but this costly amendment prevents DoD from hiring the most cost-efficient workforce. It also would prevent DoD from ever correcting, through insourcing, any contract that costs too much or is poorly performed, period—regardless of the increased costs to taxpayers.

According to the Government Accountability Office, DoD reports savings of almost \$1 trillion through insourcing in FY10 alone. In 2013, the DoD Comptroller acknowledged in a Senate hearing that civilian employees are significantly cheaper than contractors, particularly for the performance of long-term functions. So why would anyone want to make it impossible for DoD to save money by correcting overly costly or poorly-performed contracts, especially in a time of shrinking defense budgets? DoD can't afford this amendment, and neither can American taxpayers. Please join me in opposing this costly and wasteful amendment.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AF-
FAIRS MANAGEMENT ACCOUNT-
ABILITY ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in support of our nation's veterans and express my views regarding H.R. 4031, the Department of Veterans Affairs Management Accountability Act of 2014.

This weekend the nation will mark the occasion of Memorial Day the time our nation pauses to recognize the valor, and self-sacrifice of our nation's veterans.

We must remember that freedom is not free. That is why the timing of the disclosure is especially troubling regarding accusations made by a whistleblower about the treatment of veterans seeking healthcare at the Phoenix Veterans medical facility.

Now, more than ever, we must renew our commitment to keep our promises to the nation's more than 2 million troops and reservists, their families, and 23 million veterans.

The Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center located in Houston, Texas serves the 32,477 veterans who I have the privilege of representing in my Congressional District.