

WPD arrived on scene approximately 30 seconds later. The male was arrested.

Officer Tommy Gardner's handling of this situation is remarkable for several reasons. First, he went above and beyond his Call to Duty. He is employed as a Correctional Officer at Northwestern. He was also off duty at the time. He was under no obligation to become involved in the situation. His strong character and desire to help those in his community propelled his actions. Second, Officer Gardner showed exceptional courage. When he walked over to the crowd of people he was informed that the individual was under extreme duress and had a handgun in his possession. He could have simply done nothing and waited for the police to arrive.

Instead, Officer Gardner chose to establish a dialogue and de-escalate the situation even though he knew he would be in harm's way. Officer Gardner's actions on the date personify those of the law enforcement community who chose to put the safety of the citizens above their own.

Officer Tommy Gardner, congratulations and thank you for being there for us.

NW DRUG TASK FORCE

Lt. Wally Stotlemeyer

Wally Stotlemeyer is a Lt. with the Winchester Police Department currently assigned duty with the NW Virginia Regional Drug and Gang Task Force. The recent spike in heroin overdoses has put a tremendous strain on the resources of the task force. A large number of the deaths have occurred in the Region Wally and the North End Team is responsible for. Wally is the supervisor of the team and he has exhibited tremendous leadership skills in managing the increase in their cases. Practicing leadership from the front, Wally regularly appears on the scene of the tragic events and makes sure that these cases receive the proper attention to insure our valley is safe. In addition, Wally is always present at meetings where his opinion matters. He is truly working this epidemic from both ends and deserves to be recognized for his efforts.

Lt. Wally Stotlemeyer, congratulations and thank you for being there for us.

WINCHESTER POLICE DEPARTMENT

K-9 Officer Kota

Cpl. Brittney Kotynski-Neer

Officer Kota has been with the Winchester Police Department since May, 2009. On January 3rd of this year, Kota was injured while helping apprehend two suspects hiding an attic crawl space during a burglary. He fell eight feet through the ceiling to the floor below and broke his right front leg and injured his "wrist". Despite his injuries, he climbed up a flight of stairs to return to Cpl. Brittney's side in the attic. Kota returned to work last week.

Officer Kota, congratulations and thank you for being there for us.

That, ladies and gentleman, highlights how lucky we citizens of Northern Virginia are given the outstanding people we have protecting us. Thank you for coming and don't forget them.

#### CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS RESOLUTION, 2015

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 16, 2014*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, to keep the government open, the House is considering a

continuing resolution (H.J. Res. 124) that permits government agencies to continue spending at the 2014 level through December 11, 2014. As a result, it allows a rate of overseas contingency operations spending at the Department of Defense, Department of State, and other agencies that if sustained over the entire fiscal year would total \$92 billion. This sum exceeds what the Administration requested for overseas contingency operations for 2015 by \$26 billion. Budget Committee Chairman PAUL RYAN and I agree that this bill should not be interpreted as endorsing the expansion of overseas contingency operations spending above what our military commanders say is needed to support our troops engaged in war operations. Congress will revisit the full-year funding needs for overseas contingency operations at a future date, including whatever resources may be necessary to counter emerging threats, including those ISIL poses. Over the course of the CR period, the Administration should spend OCO funding at a rate that will still allow for full-year funding at no higher than the level military commanders say is needed for 2015.

The OCO budget has been misused to get around discretionary funding caps over the years. Billions of dollars of non-war related activities have been funded in the OCO budget. For 2014, Congress shifted \$9 billion of non-war activities into the OCO budget so it could free up funds within the budget caps. Over 2001 through 2014, Pentagon OCO cost reports indicate that \$71 billion of non-war funding was provided through war appropriations.

This is a problem that both Chairman RYAN and I have been looking at in the Budget Committee. We both agree that the OCO budget should only be used to fund those requirements that are related to the transitory, non-recurring costs of war activities. In fact, the Budget Committee adopted report language as part of the budget resolution affirming that goal. It says, "Abuse of the OCO/GWOT cap adjustment is a backdoor loophole that undermines the integrity of the budget process. The Budget Committee will exercise its oversight responsibilities with respect to the use of the OCO/GWOT designation in the FY 2015 budget process, and it will oppose increases above the levels the Administration and our military commanders say are needed to carry out operations unless it can be clearly demonstrated that such amounts are war-related."

We should provide our military and diplomatic corps all the resources they need to carry out the important missions the country gives them. However, we should not use the OCO budget as a back-door mechanism to get around discretionary funding caps. The continuing resolution gives the Administration the spending authority needed to keep the government open and to give the necessary resources to support those engaged in operations overseas. It does not give the Administration a blank check to finance non-war activities.

In the coming months when the House considers the final full-year appropriation for overseas contingency operations, I am committed to working with Chairman RYAN to ensure that funds appropriated in the OCO budget will only be used for war-related costs.

RECOGNIZING THE 225TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE U.S. CUSTOMS SERVICE

**HON. CANDICE S. MILLER**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2014*

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 225th anniversary since the creation of the United States Customs Service, the oldest legacy agency consolidated into the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), within the Department of Homeland Security.

The history of the U.S. Customs Service is in many ways the history of the nation. In the years after the American Revolution, our young Nation needed to generate funds to power its economy and rebuild its infrastructure. On July 31, 1789, the First United States Congress, in its fifth act, created the U.S. Customs Service, staffed by official Customs collectors. In this role, a Customs collector had the responsibility to supervise the collection of custom duties on imported goods in a particular city or region to enforce the newly passed Tariff Act.

Customs collectors also oversaw the building of revenue cutters, to patrol our coasts, and lighthouses to guide ships to our ports, which was essential to the Nation's maritime security and trade activities. For over 100 years after its birth, before the passage of the Sixteenth Amendment, the tariffs collected by the Customs Service were the primary source of funds for the entire government, which paid for the nation's early growth, infrastructure and land purchases such as the Louisiana and Oregon territories.

The responsibilities of the U.S. Customs Service would be reshaped and refocused following the attacks of 9/11. The Homeland Security Act of 2002 transferred the U.S. Customs Service in its entirety from the Department of the Treasury to the Department of Homeland Security.

Today, CBP manages the Nation's 328 air, land, and sea ports of entry. CBP officers, like their predecessor Customs inspectors, serve on the frontlines, securing our homeland from transnational threats, including terrorists, terrorist weapons, drugs and other contraband, while simultaneously facilitating the legitimate flow travel and trade across our borders.

While the responsibilities of a CBP Officer have grown since 9/11, Officers continue to perform essential revenue-collecting services as when established by the founders of the Republic, and enforce hundreds of immigration, agriculture, and trade laws.

The men and women of CBP are still making history. They continue to fuel our Nation's economy and support American jobs by facilitating legitimate trade and travel while keeping our borders secure.

On behalf of a grateful nation, I want to commend the men and women of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection for their many years of service and wish them a happy 225th anniversary.