

I also am disappointed that the omnibus did not include a number of key spending priorities that should command support from everyone. The bill does not include an important change to wildfire spending. We should treat wildfires like other major disasters and eliminate the practice of “fire borrowing,” which drains agency non-fire budgets to pay for fire-fighting. The bill also fails to reauthorize the Historic Preservation Fund, the main source of federal support for preservation projects that celebrate the heritage and history of communities across America. Finally, the omnibus continues a decades long ban on federal research on the causes and factors behind gun violence. Everyone should allow researchers to study and share information about gun violence in order to promote evidence-based policies to reduce horrific incidents.

Despite these shortcomings, however, I support the overall package. On the whole, it's balanced and includes meaningful provisions that will support priorities important to Oregonians and across the country. I'm hopeful this is an indication that going forward, Congress can work across the aisle and compromise, so that we can do our jobs for the American people.

HONORING SHREWSBURY BOY  
SCOUT TROOP 114

**HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 18, 2015*

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Shrewsbury Boy Scout Troop 114.

January 2016 will mark the 100th anniversary of Shrewsbury Boy Scout Troop 114. The troop, which has been chartered by the First Congregational Church of Shrewsbury since 1916, is one of the oldest troops in Mohegan Council as well as one of the oldest troops within the Boy Scouts of America.

For the last hundred years, Shrewsbury Boy Scout Troop 114 has been a vibrant part of our community and helped to teach our young boys the skills that prepare them to lead and the values that strengthen our families in Shrewsbury and the surrounding communities.

Troop 114, which is comprised of 70 Scouts who range in age from 10 to 17, is led by Scoutmaster Rick Spurr as well as 28 registered adult leaders. All of them work to build character and train the Scouts in the responsibilities of participating citizenship and developing personal fitness.

Troop 114 helps our boys stay active and physically fit with 10 campouts per year and a week of summer camp. Since 1916, Troop 114 has spent over 2,500 nights camping throughout New England and members of Troop 114 have represented Shrewsbury proudly at every National Boy Scout Jamboree that has ever been held.

Through the years, 124 members of Troop 114 have attained the rank of Eagle Scout. For the last decade, crews of Scouts have attended national High Adventure camps across the country, including Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico, Seabase in Florida and the Bahamas, and Maine High Adventure in northern Maine.

Over the past 100 years Scouting, Troop 114 has kept up with the changing world by

offering many new merit badges that focus on cutting-edge technologies and industries that did not exist years ago. And while much has changed, the core values of the Scouting program have remained constant since Troop 114 was founded in 1916.

I am pleased to congratulate Shrewsbury Boy Scout Troop 114 as they celebrate their centennial and a proud history of helping all of our boys reach their full potential. Here's to another great hundred years.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF  
MR. CHARLIE HALL

**HON. JACKIE WALORSKI**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 18, 2015*

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the honorable service of Charlie Hall as he retires as CEO of AM General after five years of remarkable leadership of this world-renowned company, the manufacturer of the Humvee. Few exemplify the American spirit more than Mr. Hall and his contributions are truly deserving of this body's recognition.

For more than 35 years, Hall has worked in domestic and international business. He began his career as a summer intern at Chrysler Defense where he returned full time upon completing his business degree from Western Michigan University.

A driven and natural born leader, Hall then became an employee of General Dynamics in 1984, where he worked at nearly every level of the organization including plant manager, vice president, and president of General Dynamics Land Systems. While serving in the Combat Systems Group at General Dynamics, Hall oversaw nearly 20,000 employees.

Hall joined AM General as CEO in January 2011, and set out to fortify the HMMWV brand, grow international sales, and diversify the commercial vehicle business. Hall will retire from the company accomplishing these goals and much more. He restructured the business from top to bottom, launched critical partnerships with the National Guard and Reserves, secured unprecedented foreign military sales, and diversified the company's commercial portfolio, just to name a few of his most notable achievements.

Best known for his collaborative, deliberative, no-nonsense leadership style, Hall has never lost track of his top priority: delivering the best light tactical vehicles on the planet for our men and women in uniform. Under his leadership, AM General has truly been transformed and stands poised for a very bright future.

I want to take this opportunity to once again thank Charlie Hall for having such an extraordinary impact on this company and for serving as a role model for the next generation of leaders in our community. On behalf of myself and my fellow Hoosiers, I thank him for his commitment to service and exceptional leadership.

CELEBRATING THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HOMESTEAD RESORT

**HON. BOB GOODLATTE**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 18, 2015*

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, the Homestead Resort is a piece of American history nestled in the Allegheny Mountains of Virginia—surrounded by the natural beauty of the landscape, permeated by healing mineral waters, and displaying the quintessential Southern charm for which it has become so well known. For 250 years, The Homestead Resort has served as a respite for weary travelers. From presidents and celebrities to families and visitors from around the globe, The Homestead has been a place where generations have come to rest, relax, and rejuvenate—all while enjoying the hospitality of our region.

Located in Virginia's Sixth Congressional District in the village of Hot Springs, the history of The Homestead begins more than a decade before the founding of our nation. A young George Washington visited the area, and later granted the land on which The Homestead was built to Captain Thomas Bullitt. In 1766, The Homestead saw its start as an 18-room lodge. In 1818, former President Thomas Jefferson spent three weeks soaking in the mineral pools. To date, 23 U.S. presidents have visited the resort, including former President George W. Bush in 2015.

Under the ownership of the Ingalls family for roughly 100 years until 1993, The Homestead saw many additions and improvements to shape the property as we know it today. Now known as The Omni Homestead Resort, over the past 200-plus years it has grown to encompass 2,300 acres with 483 guest rooms, numerous dining outlets, and more than 30 recreational activities. Today, this iconic resort continues to play a critical role in the economy of Bath County as a leading employer. Annually, the resort employs upwards of 1,000 workers, and is a significant source of tourism for surrounding communities and attractions.

The success of The Homestead is a testament to its hardworking and dedicated employees, like Woody Pettus, the long-time maître d' in the main dining room. Woody is an institution at The Homestead and is one of five generations of his family who have worked there over the years. For many guests, the staff at The Homestead has become an extended family.

If you have not been to The Homestead, you are truly missing out on a little slice of heaven. From the columns flanking the main entrance and the welcoming expanse of the Great Hall to the beautifully designed gardens and miles of trails, a visit to The Homestead is certainly a unique experience. Over the years, this resort has become a special place for my family and many others. The people of Bath County are proud to call this landmark their own, and it is an honor to represent them and America's First Resort in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Throughout 2016, The Homestead will honor the past, present and future of America's First Resort. I congratulate The Homestead on this 250th anniversary, and wish them many more milestone anniversaries to come.