

As our men and women in uniform and their families sacrifice to keep our country safe, Congress must provide them with the support and equipment necessary to accomplish their mission. In this bill we have appropriated funding for equipment procurement, base operations, military healthcare and pay in order to address current defense needs and future challenges; to continue funding research and development; and to improve the essential health and quality of life programs for the men and women of the Armed Services and their families.

In total, the bill allocates \$530 billion for Defense Department operations and support. This funding cuts \$9 billion from the President's request while increasing overall base funding for the Department of Defense by \$17 billion. While I support this legislation, I believe we can meet all our national security needs with fewer resources. The testimony before the Budget Committee on July 8, 2011 made clear that we can reduce defense spending without compromising our national security. That is why I voted for the Frank Amendment that would have reduced the amount of this increase by half. I also supported an amendment offered by Representative MULVANEY that would have held funding in the bill to FY2011 levels. Unfortunately, both amendments failed.

The bill provides \$32.3 billion for defense health programs, which is \$119 million above the President's request and \$935 million above what was enacted in the FY2011 bill. This figure includes a \$125 million increase over the president's request for improved treatment and research of traumatic brain injury and psychological health conditions, \$30 million for orthopedic research and \$15 million for restorative transplant research, and \$2.3 billion for family support and advocacy programs.

To help financially struggling military families cope in this challenging economy, the bill also includes military pay funding of \$5.4 billion above last year's level and includes a pay raise of 1.6% and a comparable increase for housing and subsistence funding.

To ensure that all the funds allocated are used properly and for their intended purpose, the bill also contains enhanced oversight and accountability measures.

Mr. Chair, our troops deserve our support for the daily sacrifices they make for the security of the Nation. They depend on us to ensure that they have the resources they need to do their jobs.

They also count on us to see to it that the health and welfare of their families are assured so they can focus on the mission at hand. That is what this bill is about and I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting it.

H.R. 1249, THE "AMERICA INVENTS ACT"

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.
OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 8, 2011

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the "America Invents Act." I strongly support this bill, which will foster innovation, economic growth, and help America maintain its global competitive edge.

If we are going to have a healthy economy and be a global leader, we must have a healthy intellectual property system. In order to have a healthy intellectual property system, we must modernize our laws. Patent reform is integral to our economy.

Currently, the United States is the world leader in issuing patents. In order to maintain our position and solidify our position as a global leader, we must enact patent reform as soon as possible.

America is now on its way to the most significant patent reform in more than half a century. Our current patent system is outdated and in need in major reform. Pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 8, "Congress shall have Power . . . [t]o promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries." This bill will strengthen our patent system and encourage innovation and drive economic growth.

The "America Invents Act" includes much needed improvements to the patent system that will help to maintain America's place at the forefront of innovation. America's ability to drive economic growth and job creation through innovation is currently hampered by a massive backlog at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, USPTO. There is currently a backlog of approximately 700,000 patent applications.

While I preferred Section 22 of H.R. 1249, as reported by the Judiciary Committee, that would allow the USPTO to retain all of its user fees, I am supportive of the USPTO funding agreement that was reached in the House. It is intended to end fee diversion and provide the USPTO access to its user fees. Moreover, I believe in the overall goal of the bill to efficiently issue patents to businesses—especially small businesses and startups—to develop new products and create jobs. This compromise will allow the USPTO to process applications more efficiently and produce higher-quality patents which makes them less likely to be subject to a court challenge.

It is imperative that the USPTO have the resources it needs to hire more patent examiners and pay overtime to decrease this backlog. Every state in the United States of America has patent applications pending. In 2010, 2,194 patents were granted to residents in my home state of Georgia. The "America Invents Act" will ensure that residents in Georgia, and each and every State across the Nation, are granted patents in a speedy fashion.

This bill will help inventors like Lonnie Johnson in Atlanta, Georgia. He invented the Super Soaker that generated hundreds of millions of dollars in profits, created jobs and became the number one selling toy in America. Lonnie Johnson currently holds over 80 patents and has over 20 more pending. The sooner this 700,000 patent application backlog is cut down, the sooner Lonnie Johnson, and other inventors, can get their inventions to market, grow the economy, and create jobs.

Further, the "America Invents Act" will transition the United States from a first-to-invent system to a first-inventor-to-file system. This will bring the United States up to par with every other industrialized nation in the world. As business and competition becomes more global, patent applicants are increasingly filing patent applications in other countries for protection of their inventions. The first-to-invent

filing system in the United States differs from that in other patent-issuing jurisdictions. This can cause confusion and inefficiencies for American companies and innovators.

In a first-inventor-to-file system, the filing date of the application is most relevant: it is an objective date and is simple to determine because it is listed on the face of the patent. In contrast, in a first-to-invent system, the date the invention claimed in the application was actually invented is the determinative date. Unlike the objective date of filing, the date someone invents something is often uncertain, and, when disputed, typically requires corroborating evidence.

The first-inventor-to-file system will simplify the patent application system and harmonize it with the rest of the industrialized world, reduce costs, and improve the competitiveness of American inventors seeking protection globally. These changes are necessary for true, comprehensive patent reform.

I am extremely proud that our nation's universities will benefit from this bill. The patent system plays a critical role in enabling institutions like Georgia Institute of Technology and colleges belonging to the Atlanta University Center to transfer the discoveries arising from basic research into the commercial sector for development into products and processes that benefit society.

Patent reform is not a partisan issue, but an issue of the fairest way to encourage inventors and investors to create and develop new products that will benefit universities, create jobs, and spur economic growth.

Today marks a major milestone in moving this country forward. I was a freshman when patent reform last moved through the House in the 110th Congress. I am proud to be a part of this moment in history. The American people have waited long enough; Congress should act now to pass this important piece of legislation.

I strongly support the "America Invents Act" and urge my colleagues to do the same. We are close to the finish line and need to push on and finish the race.

THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN'S
DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

HON. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 8, 2011

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in recognition and support of Republic of South Sudan which will tomorrow become Africa's 54th country. As a co-chair of the House Sudan Caucus, I am grateful for the accomplishment of this successful milestone in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement process that has ended Sudan's 22-year civil war. In the past two decades, this civil war and famine took the lives of approximately two million people in Sudan.

The ability for South Sudan to declare for itself its own country is a testament to what can be achieved when a unified international community made of nation states, international organizations, and non-governmental organizations all come together to foster peace and assist in the resolution of difference between peoples.

Yet, the people of South Sudan still face many challenges. There is more infrastructure

to be built, governmental processes to be developed, and a new currency to be established. There are also unsettled issues with its neighbor, the Republic of Sudan, such as ending violence and suffering in Darfur, a long-term oil revenue sharing agreement, border demarcation, fair distribution of debts, and establishing the qualifications for citizenship.

Tomorrow, we will celebrate the birth of a new nation. However, with this tremendous event should come a renewed commitment from the world to preserve peace and cultivate a bright and stable future for the South Sudanese people.

RECOGNIZING THE INDEPENDENCE
OF SOUTH SUDAN

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 8, 2011

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the world's newest nation, the Republic of South Sudan. On July 9, 2011, after months of preparation, South Sudan will officially declare its independence from Sudan. In January 2011, South Sudan held a referendum on the issue of secession, where 97.5 percent of Southern Sudanese turned out to vote and an overwhelming 98.8 percent voted for separation. Tomorrow, the independence of South Sudan marks the end of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), which ended 22 years of war between northern and southern Sudan, and the birth of a new country based on the principles of self-determination, freedom, and justice.

However, South Sudan faces numerous challenges that will need to be resolved after its independence. South Sudan and Sudan still have to agree on issues such as revenue sharing, especially oil revenues, border disputes, security agreements, national debt, citizenship, and currency. In addition, South Sudan lacks two critical resources: government infrastructure and personnel, which are crucial to creating a strong and viable government.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the people of South Sudan on achieving their dream of independence, and extend my deepest sympathies to those who lost loved ones in the fight for freedom. I encourage my colleagues in Congress to join me in commemorating the struggle and sacrifices of millions of Southern Sudanese, and to work with the international community to ensure that South Sudan becomes a politically and economically stable nation.

A TRIBUTE TO MARIE
WATERMILLER

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 8, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Marie Watermillier of Hampton, Iowa on the recent celebration of her 100th birthday on June 24, 2011.

Marie was brought into this world on June 24, 1911 and more than 100 years later con-

tinues to live a vibrant life. Aside from her daily regimen of sewing, crocheting, and reading, Marie also stays busy by entertaining and quilting blankets for her 15 grandchildren, 42 great-grandchildren, and 5 great-great-grandchildren as she expects three more great-great-grandchildren within the year. Marie also spends her time assisting those that are ill by making lap robes to support the Church of the Living Word's most recent project.

There have been many changes that have occurred during the past 100 years. Since Marie's birth we have revolutionized air travel and walked on the moon. We have invented the television and the Internet. We have fought in wars overseas, seen the rise and fall of Soviet communism and the birth of new democracies. Marie has lived through 18 United States Presidents and 22 Governors of Iowa. In her lifetime the population of the United States has more than tripled.

I congratulate Ms. Watermillier for reaching this milestone of a birthday. I am extremely honored to represent Marie and her family in the United States Congress and I wish her happiness and health in her future years.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 7, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2219) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes:

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Chair, American children have already been the victims of the Republicans' inaction and spending cuts, and now the Republicans are specifically targeting the children of military families. The Flake Amendment to H.R. 2219 cuts \$250 million of critical funding for public schools on military installations.

These schools and families are already in dire need of support. Impact aid is provided to these schools as compensation for the federal activities that render them unable to collect property or other taxes to fund these schools. This is one of the oldest education programs administered in the United States, and these schools and families depend on these funds.

The men and women of our armed services make great sacrifices to keep our country safe. They deserve better from this Congress. They do not deserve to have their children's education sacrificed as well. I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on the Flake amendment to cut impact aid.

RECOGNIZING THE REPUBLIC OF
SOUTH SUDAN ON THEIR DEC-
LARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 8, 2011

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Republic of South Sudan and

their declaration of formal independence on July 9, 2011. Six months ago, the people of Southern Sudan spoke clearly when nearly 99 percent of the voters declared independence from the repressive government in Khartoum. While this is a historic moment for southern Sudan and its people, this nation faces great challenges in the infancy of its sovereignty.

For the Republic of South Sudan to prosper, a number of challenges must be overcome. Foremost, the country must determine questions as fundamental as citizenship rights and the location of borders with neighboring nations. Additionally, Southern Sudan must establish peace and security within its borders in order to sustain meaningful growth. North Sudanese governmental support for attacks on Southern Sudan have killed more than 1,000 civilians, and have displaced hundreds of thousands of men, women and children over the past year and a half. Simply put, these attacks must cease.

In terms of the economy, international agreements regarding Southern Sudan's debts must be negotiated, as well as the development of an infrastructure to allow for the efficient export of oil. However, even in these challenging and uncertain times, this young nation has demonstrated a commitment to improve the lives of its citizens. Recently, we have observed marked increases in commerce and trade, both domestically and internationally, thanks to the government's continued development of modern infrastructure. The ruling government has reached out to opposition groups within Southern Sudan in an honest effort to maintain national unity throughout this momentous process. While there are still hurdles to be overcome, today I recognize and congratulate the Sudanese people for their significant accomplishments in having reached this momentous occasion.

THE FINAL FLIGHT OF THE SPACE
SHUTTLE PROGRAM ON JULY 8,
2011

HON. ALLEN B. WEST

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 8, 2011

Mr. WEST. Mr. Speaker, today we close another chapter in the history book of manned space flight. Today Americans around the Nation watched the final launch of the Space Shuttle *Atlantis*, a journey that began 30 years ago with the first flight of Space Shuttle *Columbia*.

For 135 times the Nation has turned their eyes to the State of Florida to watch the solid rocket boosters ignite and lift the Space Shuttle through the bounds of our Earth's atmosphere. Each mission of the Space Shuttles' primary goal was to continue to push the bounds of space exploration. With each mission the United States achieved another milestone of expanding man's frontier in space earning the respect and admiration of the world.

The State of Florida has been the epicenter for manned exploration of space. Over the last 50 years from Gemini, to Apollo, to the Space Shuttles, hundreds of thousands of Floridians have contributed their talents, energy and knowledge to explore space. Some have dedicated their lives to the exploration of space.

Today I would like to recognize the men and women over the last 30 years who worked on